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SOCCER

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MENDEZ MISSES OUT

Sydney Olympic's dynamic midfielder, Gabriel ('Chi Chi') Mendez shielding the ball from Carlton's captain Andrew Marth.

By John Economos

Sydney Olympic's magical midfield playmaker Gabriel ('Chi Chi') Mendez, should consider himself a trifle unlucky at having not been selected last week by national coach Frank Farina in his 20 man squad that flies out to Chile on Sunday morning to challenge in a Four Nation tournament.

Olympic's excellent ball-playing midfielder who turns 27 years of age on the 12th of next month, is right back to his scintillating form that dazzled the crowds back in 1995 before he cruelly suffered three consecutive knee injuries that almost certainly threatened to prematurely end his playing career.

Mendez's red-hot performances since joining Olympic at the start of this season have gone a very long way towards lifting his team to the top of the NSL ladder.

"Of course I was a little disappointed at not making the national squad.

"And making things even much worse, I'm out suspended for the next two weeks which is completely frustrating," stated the little midfield master.

Mendez then went on to add: "It's no use complaining. I just wish I had been selected. All I can do is let my football do all my talking and hope that the right people will soon take notice," lamented the Olympic playmaker.

Olympic who led the League two weeks ago, suffered a hiccup when they went down 2-0 to current League champions South Melbourne in the reverse round played midweek, allowing Wollongong Wolves to leapfrog the Sydney team.

But last Saturday night in Melbourne, Olympic scored a most valuable 0-1 win over Carlton that enabled them to reclaim their Number One spot whilst Wollongong surprisingly dropped all their points to a much depleted Perth Glory in Western Australia.

"Carlton gave us a very torrid game," Mendez stated last night.

"They didn't allow us to play much football and closed us down early and only allowed us just one or two chances in the whole game. We had to work very hard to get a result."

When ABSW questioned Mendez on Olympic's prospects for this season's League championship, he quickly responded with: "We are leading the League right now, but we cannot get carried away, especially against teams such as Canberra who we meet on Sunday at home.

"They can close you down quickly and we have to concentrate all the time to win these type of games.

"Football wise we know we can play all over the park. We must remain fully committed and never get carried away," ended the little midfield master.

Mendez will miss Olympic's home match this Sunday night against the Canberra Cosmos at the Belmore Sports Ground.

Continued on page 2

No Glory For Wollongong

By Vince Battiato

Wollongong Wolves' stay atop the National Soccer League was cut prematurely short by a Perth Glory outfit determined to put the fiasco of last week's mauling against Auckland behind them.

The Glory successfully knocked Wollongong from the perch and installed themselves just one point behind the Wolves and four points behind leaders Sydney Olympic with a game in hand.

The Wolves will find the going tougher for the next couple of matches as they are resigned to being the only NSL club to lose more than one player to the National Touring party to Chile.

They lose inspirational skipper Matt Horsley and livewire striker Scott Chipperfield from the heart of their side.

The Wolves are at home on Sunday night to the Newcastle Breakers, who recently have seemed to lose their way and who will be trying to recover from their deferred match against South Melbourne just four days earlier.

More Wollongong News page 9

Scott Chipperfield: National Selection

FULL MATCH REPORT PAGE 14

AUSTRALIAN SQUAD FOR CHILE TOUR PAGE 2

CULINA WALKS OUT PAGE 7

THE GOOD OIL ... PAGES 4-5

PICTORIAL SPECIAL NSL MONTAGE

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MENDEZ MISSES OUT

Continued from front page

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

But whilst Mendez will be out through suspension and ace striker Pablo Cardozo on national duty, Olympic coach Branko Culina expects to have back from injury, his international right flanker Brett Emerton.

Emerton did not travel to Carlton last Saturday night due to a foot injury, but freely trained with the Olympic first squad yesterday morning.

Tragic Flash Back.

Whilst playing for Melita Eagles in 1995 against Wollongong City at Brandon Park, Mendez was cut down by a savage tackle and suffered severe damage to his left knee which required surgery.

After making a laborious comeback a year later, and this time most desperate to gain selection in Eddie Thomson's final squad to get to the Atlanta Olympic Games, disaster struck Mendez a second time.

Whilst playing for Australia in an Olympic '96 qualifier against Canada at the Sydney Football Stadium, Mendez hobbled off the pitch with further damage to the very same knee.

Almost undaunted, and following his second operation, the little battling dynamo was left to spend many months, again on the now familiar recovery trail.

In 1997, and when back to full fitness, unbelievably, yet again, tragedy struck the luckless Mendez a third time.

Playing for Melita Eagles in the NSW Super League against the Leichhardt Tigers at Lambert Park, Mendez badly twisted and damaged his ligaments, this time to his right knee.

After more than a year out and on the by-now very well known road to recovery, the little midfielder that they affectionately call 'Chi Chi', is now back, bigger, stronger and better than ever, hoping to pilot Sydney Olympic to only their second League championship.

National team change.

Meanwhile lanky central marker Tony Popovic who gained selection in the Australian squad to tour Chile, pulled out yesterday (Monday) with a torn calf muscle that refused to respond to intensive treatment. Popovic was immediately replaced by South Melbourne's consistent defender Con Blatsis.

AUSTRALIA'S SQUAD TO TOUR CHILE

Name		Position	Club
SCHWARZER	Mark	Goalkeeper	Middlesbrough (England)
BOLTON	Clint	Goalkeeper	Brisbane Strikers (Australia)
FOXE	Hayden	Defender	Hiroshima Sanfrecce (Japan)
LAYBUTT	Stephen	Defender	Parramatta Power (Australia)
MURPHY	Shaun	Defender	Sheffield United (England)
POPOVIC	Tony	Defender	Hiroshima Sanfrecce (Japan)
VAN BLERK	Jason	Defender	West Bromwich Albion (England)
BINGLEY	Matthew	Defender	Northern Spirit (Australia)
OKON	Paul	Def/Mid	Fiorentina (Italy)
HORSLEY	Matthew	Midfielder	Wollongong Wolves (Australia)
TIATTO	Danny	Midfielder	Manchester City (England)
FOSTER	Craig	Midfielder	Crystal Palace (England)
CORICA	Steve	Midfielder	Wolverhampton Wanderers (England)
SKOKO	Josip	Midfielder	Hajduk Split (Croatia)
MALONEY	Brad	Midfielder	Marconi Stallions (Australia)
WEHRMAN	Kasey	Midfielder	Perth Glory (Australia)
CHIPPERFIELD	Scott	Striker	Wollongong Wolves (Australia)
AGOSTINO	Paul	Striker	1860 Munich (Germany)
ZDRILIC	David	Striker	SVV Ulm (Germany)
CARDOZO	Pablo	Striker	Sydney Olympic (Australia)
BLATSIS	Con	Defender	South Melbourne

The Australian based players will depart Sydney February 6 2000, to meet up with the rest of the squad members in Chile, with the LG Socceroos first game against the host Nation on February 9.

NSW SOCCER IS COOL

The NSW Soccer Federation has been named as a 'Top 10 Cool Site' by Netscape, the international Internet browser.

The Federation recently had a facelift on its comprehensive site which contains information on the full range of services and competitions in New South Wales and other items of interest to Soccer in NSW and Australia.

It also provides up-to-date information on forthcoming games, results and tables for all major competitions.

"Not all our competitions are going at the moment," said Marketing and Communications Manager, Bonnie Mersiades, "but when they are, we provide results and tables for all 37 of them.

"We believe it's one of the most comprehensive independent sports sites around because of the large number of competitions we have.

It's also possible to purchase products on line for Coerver Coaching, make an inquiryon coaching programs or schools visits and we also place a feature article from our magazine, 'Super Soccer' on it each week."

The site navigation and text were written by the NSW Federation and the site was designed by Chris Beattie of Melbourne.

"Chris' brief was to give us an updated image which would be attractive to young people in particular, and we're delighted with the job he's done.

It's fresh, vibrant and — to borrow from Netscape — cool!" Ms Mersiades said.

You can be cool too by visiting **www.soccernsw.com.au**

FRANK FARINA OAM

Australia Day was cause for plenty of celebration for Australia's current National coach.

Farina was awarded the Medal in the Order of Australia for services to Soccer as both a player and a coach.

Farina's achievements include being named Oceania Player of the Year in 1988, runner-up to Wynton Rufer as the Oceania Player of the Century. He also led the Brisbane Strikers to a grand final victory in the National Soccer League in 1996/97 - his first year as a player/coach with the club.

Farina made 68 appearances for Australia at international level with 37 Full "A" internationals. He scored 10 goals.

"It really has been an amazing few months for me and this Award tops everything off," he said.

"I'm very fortunate to have enjoyed a successful career as a player in a sport I love, and that I've been able to continue that career as a coach.

"I am a very proud Australian and will continue to pour my energies into putting Soccer into a position it truly deserves."

Frank Farina: OAM

Farina's day just kept getting better as he featured and captained an Australian side from the past against a World XI at North Sydney Oval as the curtain raiser to the Northern Spirit - Carlton match.

In true form Farina was the difference netting twice in a 3-1 victory to Australia.

The Australian side also featured Tony Pezzano, Joe Rizzoto, Joe Watson, Gerry Gomez, Kevin Mullen, Terry Butler, Peter Katholos, Tom McCulloch, Robbie Wheatly, Grant Lee and Paul Carter.

Steve Horvat: Bound for Carlton

HORVAT SET TO JOIN CARLTON

By Bert van Bedaf

Former Melbourne Knights sweeper and Socceroos defender Steve Horvat is set to sign for Carlton.

Horvat departed Croatia first division club Hajduk Split to pursue a career in England but failed to secure a work permit. He returned to Australia, living at home in North Geelong in Victoria.

He has been training with Carlton for some time, hoping to get a clearance.

Carlton general manager Lou Sticca confirmed Horvat would sign with the Melbourne club.

"He finally got his international clearance and we'll be signing him in the next 24 hours," Sticca said.

"Steve has been out of contract with Split and we went to FIFA to obtain his clearance. We'll just need to finalise his arrangements with us," he said.

Horvat will be the sixth ex-Knights player to sign for Carlton.

Captain Andrew Marth, midfielder Lubo Lapsansky and striker John Markovski are still with the Blues.

The Cervinski brothers (Adrian and David) have since moved on (Adrian back to the Knights, via Sydney Olympic, and David to Wollongong Wolves.)

BABIC AND MALONEY MISS GLORY

By John Economos

Marconi on Sunday night will be without their two star goalscorers, striker Sean Babic plus captain and midfielder Brad Maloney when they take on the visiting Perth Glory at the Marconi Stadium.

The mobile Babic who last Sunday night scored Marconi's late equaliser against Adelaide City, even hit the upright with his header in the last minute of the match.

But unfortunately for Babic he also received his fourth yellow card and will miss Sunday's match against Perth through suspension.

Marconi will be further handicapped by the loss of Maloney who last week was selected by national coach Frank Farina in the Australian squad to tour Chile.

The Australian squad flies out for Chile on Sunday morning.

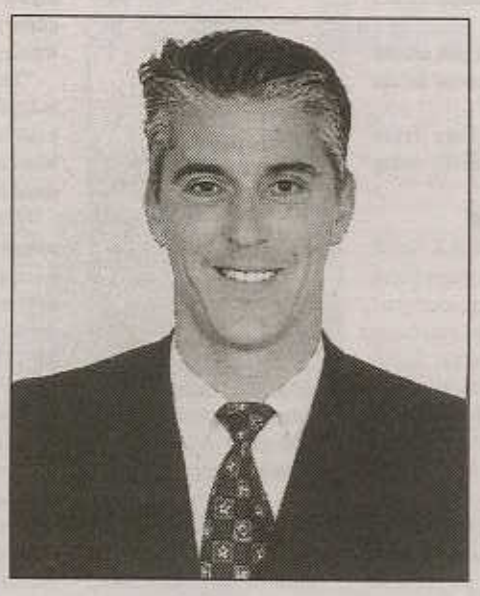
Marconi's head- coach Eddie Krncevic is unperturbed that two of his stars will be missing Sunday's action, stating: "From now on all games will be tough no matter who you are playing.

"Last Sunday night against Adelaide City we showed a lot of fight and character to battle back in the second half and really earn our 2-2 draw.

"Sunday's match against the Glory is a very important game. In fact vital, as it really could be worth six points to us.

"If we manage to beat the Glory then we have the chance to jump into third spot on the League ladder.

"In our last two away games (Brisbane Strikers and Ade.City) we have collected four League points which was most satisfactory.



Eddie Krncevic: Marconi's coach.

"On Sunday we will be most concerned about a few of the Glory players, especially their goalscoring midfielder Con Boutsianis who I believe is most unlucky not to have been selected in the current national squad that's going to Chile. He is a very good player.

"Having said that though, it is up to us to continue the hard and disciplined work that we have been putting in overall in the past two weeks or so."

Slotting into Marconi's attack-line to fill the void left by the suspended Babic, it's expected that Krncevic will bring in the towering striker Alex Duric to partner Kris Trajanovski.

Also expected to be added to the squad for Sunday's game, is Italian import midfielder, Pierluigi Di Gia.

The Italian star who at the start of the season had to undergo surgery to his damaged left knee, played last weekend in Marconi's Youth team and scored a goal against Sydney United.

The Marconi coach also went on to boldly predict: "We have reached the crucial part of the season and we still have a home game in hand against the Parramatta Power.

"From here on I expect consistency to play a major part for teams.

"And here I feel that some of the top sides could start dropping down the ladder, either through tiredness, lack of concentration, pressures or a combination of all of these factors," ended the suave Marconi coach.

Meanwhile Perth Glory for Sunday night will be without their energetic and key midfielder Kasey Wehrman, also on national duty to tour Chile.

The Glory last Sunday night valiantly, if not miraculously, bounced back on the winning trail against last week's temporary League leaders, the Wollongong Wolves, despite their team being savagely decimated through a combination of injuries and suspensions.

Perth's coach Bernd Stange was forced to heroically go into battle against Wollongong without a massive seven of his regular first team players, yet still managed to win 2-1 with the targets scored by the Glory's twin-strikers, the experienced Alistair Edwards and the rapidly improving marksman Peter Buljan.

Missing from last Sunday's action for the Glory through suspensions were, Kasey Wehrman, Hamilton Thorp, Troy Halpin and Con Boutsianis, whilst also missing the game, but through injury, were, defender Vinko Buljubasic, wide man Ivan Ergic, plus deadly striker Bobby Despotovski.

FRIENDLY TRIAL MATCH

This Wednesday night...2nd February, 2000 at Marconi Stadium

Marconi Stallions Vs Tae Jon Citizen (Korean K-League)

Kick Off at 7:00pm
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- ★ Party Presentation Day and free trophies!

→ For more info contact Tony Candy (9802-1674) or Eddie Earle (9874-2148) or see you on the day!

Christian Care: Marconi's attacking midfielder.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

DANNY MILOSEVIC, Perth Glory's former goalkeeper who recently signed for England Premier League side Leeds United, sent back to his old club this message:

Danny Milosevic: Glory's custodian now at Ellend Road.

"A big thank you for all your support, and you won't be forgotten, even when I'm at Leeds, I'll always remember the supporters at Perth Glory."

●●●●

ADELAIDE CITY switched last Friday night's match against Marconi to Sunday night and will be at home again this Friday night against John Kosmina's Brisbane Strikers and again on Friday the 18th February against Perth Glory.

●●●●

Angelo Costanzo: Adelaide City's excellent defender.

ABBAS SAAD, the Northern Spirit's late season signing, has more than proven to his coach Graham Arnold, plus all Spirit fans, his playing days are far from being over.

Having missed almost the entire last season at Sydney United, due to a broken leg sustained during the previous pre-season whilst on loan in the Illawarra State League, Saad's playing career was being heralded as being over.

Nothing could be further from the truth as the former international striker still has heaps to offer the game, both as a goalscorer as well as a fabulous playmaker.

The former sydney City and Sydney Olympic warrior proved this recently at the Spirit's last home game.

With the Spirit facing almost certain defeat, Saad came on and swung the entire game around. First he set up the desperately needed equaliser, then in the dying seconds and under pressure promptly and coldly slammed the winner.

This talented player has enormous experience, (you can't buy it, can you Arnie?) and his creativity skills, plus excellent vision, are second to none.

With the Spirit's magical playmaker, Kresimir Marusic, now overseas, plus the fact that Arnold has now deregistered himself as an NSL player, Saad is tailor-made to takeover the reins of midfield general.

Sure his legs have gone a little, but that's not what the Spirit needs.

Saad's brains, skills and vision have not deserted him.

And for God's sake, the guy is only 32, not 62.

'Abbey' is a big time player and the Spirit is not too big that they can't use his services.

●●●●

IVAN PETKOVIC last week 'stepped into the electric chair' when appointed coach of Sydney United, following the sudden and ludicrous sacking of David Ratcliffe.

The Club's administration offered to the media that it was forced to dump Ratcliffe through pressure brought upon them by the supporters following Ratcliffe's poor results to date this season.

What did the supporters expect after the Club had lost no less than 14 players from last season's squad due to the financial crisis there?

To rebuild a completely new, and successful, squad, takes time. Not weeks.

Ratcliffe's initials are 'D.R.' not 'J.C.'

United's monetary problems last season stemmed not from last season's poor gates.

The real financial and monumental cash crisis, was sustained the season before when the 'David Hill regime' forced United, absolutely nonsensically, to play all their 'home games' at the Parramatta Stadium.

In disgust, and to vent that their Club had been totally victimised, the United fans themselves, (and most justifiably so), stayed away in droves so that the Club's income stream for season 1997-98, drastically dried up.

That's when United's financial cash crisis started and back-washed over into last season's disastrous balance sheet situation.

Ratcliffe had nothing to do with any of this whatsoever.

Yet last week it all culminated with his sudden sacking, as he was innocently made to pay for all the 'backlogged invoices'

Meanwhile Petkovic who was a marvellous midfielder for Sydney Croatia from 1986 to 96 when he retired, has been in charge of the Club's Youth team ever since.

Ivan Petkovic: Sydney United's new coach.

United's home clash against the Melbourne Knights last Sunday was the 29th time these two 'sister' sides have met.

To date, the Knights have won 12 matches to United's eight. Last Sunday's 1-1 draw in Sydney was the ninth split-result between these two clubs.

●●●●

DAVID SEAL, the Northern Spirit's marksman, prior to last Saturday night's clash against the Parramatta Power, had scored three goals in the National League.

So what?

All three goals scored by David came from headers, and all three were instigated by Matthew Langdon's lethal crosses from the left flank.

That's what.

'Sealy' last Saturday night against the Power stretched his tally in the League to five goals after adding another two to his name.

No, both were NOT headers.

David Seal: Hat-trick of headers.

Only one was, (his second of the match) scored in the 52nd minute.

Five goals, four from headers, that's really using your head.

●●●●

PAUL TRIMBOLI, South Melbourne's magnificent skipper and playmaker last Sunday against the Newcastle Breakers played his 334th match for the Club since joining the current League championship from Sunshine George Cross.

'Trimmers' has now become the fourth player in the League's history to have played the most games with just the one club.

Trimboli now needs five more games with Souths to break the Club's alltime record held by their former captain and international centre-back, Steve Blair.

The others have been:

Segio Melta (Adelaide City) 445.

Alex Tobin (Adelaide City) 419.

Steve Blair (South Melbourne) 338.

Paul Trimboli (South Melbourne)334.

Joey Mullen (Adelaide City) 333.

Bugsy Nyskohus (Adelaide City) 300.

Milan Ivanovic (Adelaide City) 300.

Sergio Melta: Record holder and Adelaide City's former international champion player, arguably the best ever in the NSL.

●●●●

ANTHONY FRANKEN, the Perth Glory's back-up goalkeeper has been appointed by national coach Frank Farina as his goalkeeping coach.

As a goalkeeper, the technically correct Franken, also a former wicketkeeper in his junior days in Western Australia, attended the A.I.S. with Farina in the late 70s, before they both graduated to make their debut in the NSL with the Canberra Arrows.

●●●●

THE WOLLONGONG WOLVES late last week appointed a new marketing manager in Greg Burgess.

Having grown up and been educated in local Towradgi, Mr Burgess soon entered the ranks of International Tennis Tour.

Anthony Franken: Elevated to national goalkeeping coach.

With its NSL team doing exceptionally well this season, the Club feels it's now time to step up its area in marketing.

One of Mr Burgess' first priorities, who commenced his duties yesterday, is to expand the Club's level of support at all home games.

●●●●

CLUB MARCONI last week joined a select group of 26 overseas giant Soccer clubs in a television special series to be screened around the world.

English production Company, Bridge Television Productions, spent a week at the 'Palace' in Sydney filming the day-to-day workings of the Club as well as capturing footage of Marconi's 2-0 home win over the Brisbane Strikers last Wednesday night.

A 26 part half hour series titled 'Football Football' will be screened featuring the world's greatest Soccer clubs from across Europe and South America.

The Series has been commissioned by German company 'UFA Sports' and has been sold to 70 countries.

Tony Labbozzetta: Marconi's long-serving president.

The Producer/Director of 'Bridge Television', Mr Michael O'Dwyer stated that Marconi's elaborate setup would certainly surprise many viewers throughout the world.

"The entire setup is magnificent. The Social Club is luxurious and indeed Marconi's whole sporting setup is something to behold.

"Marconi's sporting complex when shown in the documentary, will be the envy of many of the world's greatest clubs," remarked Mr O'Dwyer.

Former Marconi's long-serving president and current Commissioner of Soccer Australia, Mr Tony Labbozzetta commented: "It's nice to be recognised in this manner and to be included in the same Television Series with such very famous and great clubs such as A.C. Milan, Ajax of Amsterdam. Liverpool F.C., and Barcelona is really something that honestly was beyond our wildest dreams.

"But it's happened and we're very proud of it," stated a very humble Mr Labbozzetta.

●●●●

CARLTON's 'banner competition' at Melbourne's Olympic Park has given the fans something to talk about after the game.

Hot topic this week was the woeful coverage of Soccer by Melbourne's Channel Seven.

Priding itself on its sporting prowess, especially when it comes to Aussie Rules Football and the Australian Open Tennis, the Seven Network really comes out in force.

Under the 'David Hill-regime', Soccer Australia had granted the Seven Network, exclusive broadcasting rights in a 10 year deal which Seven bid a fee of $25 million for those rights.

Since then Seven has given the fans of the NSL very, very little indeed.

Hence the rather witty banner seen last Saturday night at the Sydney Olympic match, emblazoned with the message.

"Nobody screws Soccer like 7."

●●●●

MEANWHILE for all Carlton fans wishing to travel to see their team play the Gippsland Falcons this Saturday night, may book their ticket on a special bus for a cost of $20.

Bookings must be made and paid for by tomorrow (Wednesday), by urgenlty contacting Nick Monteleone on Tel: (03) 9460-9544.

The Carlton Supporters' bus departs from outside the Optus Oval (Royal Parade side) at 3.30 pm and returns immediately after the match.

Fans must have their bus tickets booked and paid for before turning up at Optus Oval.

●●●●

A VERY embarrassed Chairman of Soccer Australia, Mr Basil Scarsella, was forced to quickly respond, and defend, serious allegations of unauthorised expenditure, involving a credit card as well as a mobile phone, made by former Commissioner of Soccer Australia, George Negus, presently residing in Tuscany, Italy.

These anomalies are reported to have surfaced following an internal audit within Soccer Australia's accounting records.

The scandalous allegations of unauthorised expenditure in phone charges and credit-card transactions, (an alleged amount totalling some $6,500), reported as having been incurred by former ABC-TV journalist, Negus, broke out late last week in 'The Australian'.

Following this news break, a communique from Soccer Australia was quickly fired out to the media, setting out clearly, comments from Mr Scarsella:

"It's normal practice for credit cards and telephone accounts to be cancelled when a Commissioner resigns from the Soccer Australia Board. Due to an administrative oversight, this was not done.

"The expenditure in question relates to the period 1st October 1998 to 30th September 1999.

"Mr Negus was a Commissioner of Soccer Australia up until January 1999.

"Bona fide Soccer Australia related expenses incurred during the period that Mr Negus was a Commissioner of Soccer Australia, are not in question.

"Expenditure incurred after Mr Negus' resignation, is in the process of being reviewed, and if this expenditure is not bona fide Soccer Australia related expenditure, Mr Negus will be asked to re-imburse the outstanding amount to Soccer Australia.

"It was Soccer Australia's understanding that in the period immediately following his resignation, Mr Negus would undertake a minor

OLYMPIC GAMES 2000 SQUAD MEMBER

Profile N° 159

CHRIS COYNE

Date Of Birth: 20th December 1978.
Birthplace: Brisbane.
Previous Clubs: Perth Italia, Kingsway Olympic.
Current Club: West Ham, (England).
Current Position: Central defender.
Nickname: 'Coyney'.
Occupation: Fulltime pro player.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Resent losing, heading and tackling.
Most Difficult Opponent: David Ginola.
Most Impressive Local Player: Milan Ivanovic.
Favourite Overseas Player: Paolo Di Canio.
Favourite Overseas Club: Everton.
What Qualities Make For A Good Coach: A sound knowledge of the game, good communicator plus an ability to understand all his players, man-management.
Honours: F.A.Youth Cup Runner-up 1996, League winners 1996, 2000 Olympic squad.
Ambitions For 2000: To do well in the Olympics for the good sake of Australian Soccer, cement my future in the game.
Most Memorable Moment: The Cup Final at Anfield in front of 30,000 which we (Hammers) lost 2-1 in 1996.
Most Regrettable Moment: The game above.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Snooker, reading and listening to music.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: David Beckham's against Wimbledon in 1988.
Favourite Food: Pasta.
Favourite Drink: Coke.
Car You Drive: None.
Favourite T.V. Show: Friends.
T.V. Show You Refuse To Watch: Judge Judy.
Favourite Movie: Shawshank Redemption.
Favourite Actor-Actress: Robert De Niro, Cameron Diaz.
Preferred Music: Easy listening.
Least Preferred Music: Boy Bands.
Favourite Comedian: Ali G.
Pet Hates: Liars and all cheats.
Person You Would Like To Meet: Pele, because my Dad John (former NSL player with Apia and Sydney Croatia) played with him in the USA with the New York Cosmos.

By John Economos

The Good Oil ...

By John Economos

ambassadorial role in Europe for Soccer Australia.

"Any bona fide expense incurred for that reason will be recognised as authorised expenditure," Mr Scarsella's comments ended

In addition, the communique was signed off with:

'This matter remains between Mr Negus and Soccer Australia, and will be resolved amicably and to everyone's satisfaction.'

George Negus: Former Commissioner of Soccer Australia.

●●●●

LIVERPOOL F.C. in the very near future could cause a major shock in the English Premier League by making another unexpected emergency signing, this time from Italy.

Don't be too surprised if you see former Juventus and Italian World Cup veteran star striker Fabrizio Ravanelli sign up at Anfield.

Ravanelli: Will he be wearing a red shirt at Liverpool?

Liverpool is silently seeking the services of the silver-haired Ravanelli to fill the alarming gap left behind by the seriously injured striker Robbie Fowler.

Ironically Ravanelli only three weeks ago had returned to Italy from England and signed with second placed in the Serie A, Lazio.

●●●●

THE ILL-ACCEPTED invitation by Soccer Australia to send a senior team to participate in, (for us), a meaningless Four Nation tournament in Chile starting next Wednesday, has upset, and correctly so, many coaches in the NSL.

With the NSL now at the halfway mark, the coaches of the top four teams in the League will lose vital key players to Frank Farina's squad.

The Four Nations tournament includes Chile, Slovakia and Bulgaria.

Unquestionably, Australia should have been sending Raul Blanco's Olympic 2000 team, not a senior, and 'B' side at that.

Blanco's Olympic squad urgently needs as many sparring games as possible before D-Day, September 13th.

But national coach Farina, stressed to the media last week, that the Chilean tournament organisers, were emphatic in their invitation extended to Australia, that they only wanted Australia's senior team to be sent across, and not an Under 23 side.

Eight of the selected 20 man squad that leaves for Chile this Sunday, are based in the NSL.

And what's worse is that five of these eight players, are involved with the teams currently holding down the first four places on the League's ladder.

Poor consolation for the coaches of the National League's current four table-toppers, Sydney Olympic, Wollongong Wolves, Perth Glory and Brisbane Strikers.

As from Sunday, these four teams automatically lose the services of these five key players.

The worst hit clubs are the Wollongong Wolves and the Brisbane Strikers.

John Kosmina loses his super and in form star Brisbane goalkeeper, Clint Bolton, whilst Nick Theodorakopoulos is worse off losing both his Wollongong captain and right midfielder Matt Horsley, plus mobile left midfielder Scott Chipperfield.

Bernd Stange, yet again must battle on without his energetic midfielder Kasey Wehrman who is either serving a suspension or on national duty.

Last but not least in suffering, is League leader Branko Culina who must reluctantly wave goodbye to his Sydney Olympic ace goalscorer Pablo Cardozo.

Pablo Cardozo

And if this tour to Chile was not enough to wreck and upset the challenging coaches in the NSL, another senior Australian squad is expected to be announced within a fortnight for the trip over to Budapest, where Australia has been scheduled to play Hungary in a friendly international on February 22nd.

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OLYMPIC GAMES 2000 SQUAD MEMBER

Profile N° 147

MILE STERJOVSKI

Date Of Birth: 27th May, 1979.
Birthplace: Wollongong. NSW.
Previous Clubs: Wollongong City, Sydney United.
Current Club: Parramatta Power.
Current Position: Striker.
Nickname: 'Mim'.
Occupation: Fulltime player.
Best Aspect Of Your Game: Speed, shooting, finishing, positional play.
Most Difficult Opponent: Dominic Longo (Marconi's marker).
Most Impressive Local Player: Brett Emerton.
Favourite Overseas Player: Mark Viduka.
Favourite Overseas Club: Manchester United.
What Qualities Make For A Good Coach: Able to communicate with all players irrespective of ages,and be their friend as well as coach.
Honours: Youth League 'Player Of The Year'-1999, World Youth championships in Nigeria, current Olympic squad.
Ambitions For 2000: To make the 'Top Six' this season with the Parramatta Power as well as make the final Olympic squad in September.
Most Memorable Moment: Scoring in the Grand Final last season against South Melbourne.
Most Regrettable Moment: Losing the same Grand Final with Sydney United.
Hobbies Outside Soccer: Tennis and swimming.
Best Goal You've Seen Scored: Marco Van Basten's in the Euro 88 Final.
Favourite Food: Mexican.
Favourite Drink: Chocolate Milk Shakes.
Car You Drive: Nissan Pulsar SSS.
Favourite T.V. Show: Dawson's Creek.
T.V. Show You Refuse To Watch: Happy Days.
Favourite Movie: Eraser.
Favourite Actor-Actress: Sean Connery, Denise Richards.
Preferred Music: All types.
Least Preferred Music: Heavy Metal.
Favourite Comedian: Jerry Seinfeld.
Pet Hates: Smokers.
Person You Would Like To Meet: Ronaldo.

By John Economos

SPECIAL FEATURE

OWENS THE GREATEST, WHILE BILLY IS KING

By Bert van Bedaf

On the list of sports heroes of the century, Pele finished runner-up to Muhammad Ali. Melbourne editor Bert van Bedaf disagrees, but neither the world famous boxer, nor the world football star is among his favorite candidate, choosing runner Jesse Owens as Sportsman of the Century and tenniser Billy-Jean King as the century's sportswoman.

The vagaries of time are the enemy of memory, but they nurture the stuff of legends. When the mind's images are blurred, only the grainy AP and Reuters photographs, the mono-colored newsreels and the early television files remain.

Like the Homeric epics, once spun to elevate Greek folklore to mythological heights, these stories are now told to describe the titanic events of our time, including those of the greatest sportsmen (and women) of the last century.

On the list, boxer Muhammad Ali, footballer Pele, track and field athlete Carl Lewis, golfer Jack Niklaus and track and field athlete Jesse Owens occupy the top five. The first women to appear is Australian swimmer Dawn Fraser in tenth place. Tennis player Martina Navratilova comes in at 12th. But my choice is Billy Jean King.

King made her mark on history not only because of her champion tennis abilities, winning Wimbledon first in 1962, at 18, and for the sixth and last time in 1975. She also paved the way for greater recognition of women's tennis by establishing the Virginia Slims professional tennis tour in 1970 and for women in general by soundly beating former men's Wimbledon champion Bobby Riggs, 6-4, 6-3, 6-3 (in the best of five sets) in 1973. An estimated television audience (I among them) of 50 million watched King run Riggs ragged.

Standing at the forefront of women's equality in sport, King proved similar in stature to that of Owens, who led the charge for black rights 50 years earlier and set the precedent for black athletes like Cassius Clay to follow in his footsteps and claim fame.

Billy-Jean King: Wimbledon crown aloft.

Pele: Acclaimed.

I was 15, when in 1964, I watched in a Rotterdam cinema how a black boxing phenomenon, Cassius Clay, Ko'd another Afro-American Johnny Liston to become the world heavy-weight champion. He did it again the following year, 'floating like a butterfly, stinging like a bee'.

In the ensuing years, I witnessed the rise and decline of The Mouth. Now as Ali, in his Islam conversion, he gradually slid from the 'Rumble in the Jungle' to the 'Thrilla in Manila' and the final circus-like exhibition years towards Parkinson's disease, aided by the constant pounding to the head.

Ali was crowned Sportsman of the Century. "The Greatest," as he always proclaimed. His runner-up Pele disputed the accolade, saying, "I'm the greatest."

I met Pele in November 1990 in Melbourne at the launch of his two-volume biography, "The Pele Albums". A surprisingly slight man, but as modest and kind as one would not have imagined, he signed those books for me, "To Bert, Good luck, Pele." We shook hands and exchanged a few pleasantries. I now "knew" him. Before then, he was a distant star whose football feats I had seen on the television. I have no memory of him during the 1958 World Cup in Sweden, but apparently (on debut at 17) that was the year of the overhead kick, which affords me the legendary recollection of his exploits.

I was in Paris during the 1966 World Cup in England and watched proceedings on television in the windows of the famous department store La Fayette on the Rue Hausmann. Pele scored against Bulgaria and was butchered by the Portuguese defence. I would always put Pele ahead of Ali in any list of sporting prowess. But neither greats are my choice for Sportsman of the Century. My choice is Jesse Owens.

The late US track and field athlete (he died in 1980) enjoyed neither the Ali nose for publicity nor the Pele aura, although he did possess charisma. He became a significant icon in sporting history at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin when Hitler's power was only three years from igniting the Second World War. Owens equalled or bettered Olympic records nine times and won four gold medals. As the proud and black Owens stood on the victory dais, right hand to his temple in salute, Hitler, who believed the Aryan white race to be more pure and powerful than any other, Asian, Jew or black, exited from the stadium in disgust.

These are the indelible moments that have reverberated through history to be at the vanguard of black emancipation. It paved the way for Ali, Carl Lewis, Michael Jordan and other black athletes to claim their place at their sporting pinnacles. Universally, the Owens images stood as an example to the world that homicidal dictators like Hitler should not be feared but defied.

Of the three heroes, the picture of Owens is savored most ahead of the snarling Ali scowling over a Ko'd opponent, or the glimpse of a gazelle-like Pele dashing towards another score in his 1,281-goal career.

Nonetheless, these three sporting giants also share a common history, that of rising to prominence from humble beginnings, of being black, of setting records and standards still admired, of staking a mark from where there was no retreat, for grafting a way forward.

Pele's career is widely documented. Born Edson Arantes do Nascimento, Pele was born in 1940 in a small Brazilian village. His first job was shining shoes before he shot to football world fame in four World Cups, Sweden 1958, Chile 1962, England 1966 and Mexico 1970 with 12 goals in 14 matches. He is undoubtedly the footballer of the century, ahead of Dutch international Johan Cruyff.

Ali, born Cassius Clay in Kentucky, experienced racism when coming home from the Rome Olympics in 1960. Being refused service at a local restaurant he threw his gold medal away in the Ohio River in protest. As a professional boxer, he won and retained the world heavyweight championship half a dozen times. He was also stripped of the title when refusing to be conscripted to Vietnam, after his conversion to Islam. He is without question the boxer of the century.

Muhammad Ali: Was he the Greatest?

Being black in Owens' time, south between the two wars, was living in perpetual inequality. Born James Cleveland Owens, in 1913, in Alabama, he was the grandson of cotton slaves. But because he excelled in athletics at school he forged himself a future.

He broke four world records in one afternoon at a US track meet in 1935, before giving Hitler his first black day a year later. He showed America, then the world, his greatness, lighting a torch for others to follow. Many have benefited from his courageous path. Owens' example is unmatched as sportsman of the century. It may be hard to find a star as bright as Owens at the end of this century.

Jesse Owens: Revered world wide.

"He showed America, then the world, his greatness, lighting a torch for others to follow."

ANGRY CULINA WALKS OUT

By Bert van Bedaf

On Australia Day South Melbourne coach Ange Postecoglou gave Sydney Olympic a 2-0 hiding with nine players, but Olympic coach Branko Culina gave

Postecoglou the gong afterwards.

The two-goal win at Bob Jane stadium was suitable revenge for the 6-0 trouncing three days earlier, when Olympic proved the much better team against a jetlagged South, just returned from Brazil.

The post-match press conference at Bob Jane began as normal until it got out of kilter. Postecoglou praised his players for showing character in getting the points. Culina admitted his team had "stumbled" over the South Melbourne hurdle and acknowledged South's character.

CULINA: "Look at how many shots at goal we had and how many goals we scored.

Doesn't that tell you something? We had two chances in the first two minutes. We should have scored and then it would have been impossible for South Melbourne to come back. We didn't take them (chances) and they (South) showed true character, which champion teams do. Good teams don't lose against nine or 10 players as we did.

"Let's not take anything away from South Melbourne and give credit to Ange, because they were more under pressure than we were. To get beaten 6-0, everyone expected them to lose by that score in Brazil not against us, it was the hardest thing to back up and to their credit they backed up.

"They rode their luck early in the game and went on with it. It got better and better. They showed great character. South Melbourne proved they're a champion team. What we proved is that we've got some more work ahead of us if we want to be champions."

POSTECOGLOU: "In my opinion we outplayed the top team in country. I know they missed some chances, but we could have been 3-0 up with half an hour to go. The chances they had were long-range shots that obviously didn't go all the way."

At this point, Culina felt aggrieved.

CULINA: "People protect their players, but you're going overboard. Let's have a look at the video tape right now, the first five minutes, and you'll see there should have been two goals (to Chi Chi Mendez and Arambasic) and we'd have been 2-0 up. Look. Well done ....."

POSTECOGLOU: "Thanks Branko ...."

CULINA: "But this is ridiculous."

POSTECOGLOU: "At the end of the day, I think, you just have to be a bit gracious ...."

CULINA: "A bit gracious, but ...."

POSTECOGLOU: "I could have made a million excuses on the (6-0) weekend, we certainly got beaten by a very good side ..."

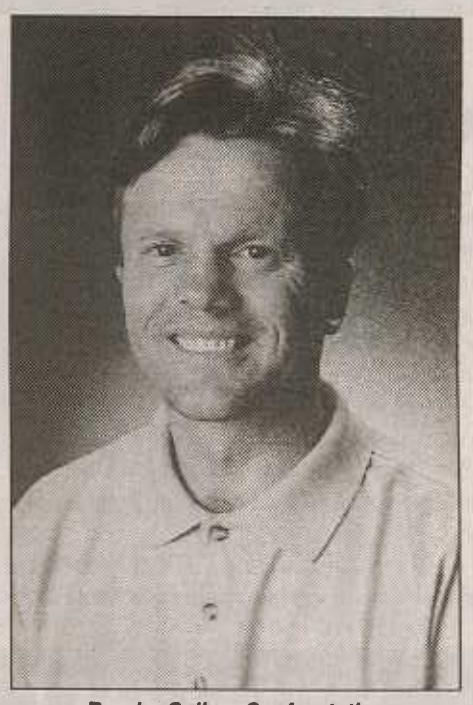
CULINA (cuts in): "No, you said in the paper that you got jetlagged. You were jetlagged and we give you credit though, because we should have beaten you by 12 (goals) ....."

POSTECOGLOU: "No, let's just agree to disagree."

CULINA (peeved): "We'll meet some other time again. Thank you very much."

POSTECOGLOU: "Hopefully."

There followed some awkwardly laughter as Culina exited the conference, obviously annoyed by the surly confrontation. He left, one might say, not without reason. If someone was "ungracious" it was not Culina, but Postecoglou, who was unable to acknowledge that Olympic had created an avalanche of chances. The fact remained, they were unable to score from them.



Branko Culina: Confrontation.

VICTORIAN PREMIER LEAGUE

BERGERS SET TO SIZZLE

By Bert van Bedaf

Heidelberg United returns to the Victorian Premier League after a season in State League division one with the decided aim to soar and sizzle on and off the field.

The Bergers have been in the doldrums ever since they got axed from the NSL in 1995, but the mood at Olympic Village is one of renewal and forward thinking.

Elias Deliyannis has been club president for 18 months, during which time the club has gained promotion and bedded down a few business deals to gear up for a bid to join the NSL second division in October.

"We are negotiating with a private investor to invest $4 million in the club to develop Olympic Village," Deliyannis said.

The Berger president said the deal involved "a sports management group".

The club will need to find a revenue stream, most likely a poker machine venue, but the potential to strike a vein is present.

Deliyannis declined to name the benefactor "until things are finalised", admitting the prospects were exciting.

On-field, the Bergers have recruited well. Coach Jim Pyrgolios (ex-South Melbourne before Puskas) will start the second year of his two-year contract with several new players added to the squad.

Team manager Angelo Koutos, who played for Heidelberg, went to play in Greece, coached the Bergers briefly and is now a committee member, expressed confidence in the club's acquisitions.

On board are Alfonzo Opazo from Sunshine, 'keeper Manny Pappas (Fawkner), Mark Aretis and Jim Iliopoulos (both Northcote City), Cameron Brown (ex-Green Gully, from Westvale), and Peter DiIorio (Gippsland Falcons).

Opazo scored 14 goals for Sunshine (relegated to State League) last season. "For a player to score 14 goals in a season in a losing side, you'll need to be good and we expect a lot from Opazo," Koutos said.

Pappas will be Heidelberg's senior 'keeper with last season's custodian Dino Tsolondres to be the Bergers' back-up.

A founding member of the NSL in 1977, the club is another candidate to vie for a place in the NSL's second division, which will be the "B" League to the current NSL's "A" League, if and when it starts in October. Bulleen and Green Gully are also eyeing the "B" League.

"We are gearing up for it," Deliyannis said. "It gives clubs something to plan for. Clubs have been playing without any ambition, because other than the state (VPL) championship there was nothing else (no promotion or relegation to or from national league)."

Koutos agrees the second division will offer state clubs a lifeline and introduce a new dimension to Victorian soccer as it will in NSW and the other states.

"We want to get as high as possible this season. The last thing we want to do is finish in the bottom four. That is why we have recruited well to see us through a good season," Koutos said.

Heidelberg drew 0-0 with Bulleen, 1-1 with Thomastown Raiders and lost 2-1 to Bentleigh Greens pre-season, but Koutos said not to read too much into those results.

"We've got some new players and obviously it will take some time to hit the right form, but we have a good blend of young and experienced players to hold our own," he said.

Heidelberg's opening game (and the VPL's opener) is against Oakleigh Cannons on Friday night, February 4. The Cannons finished ahead of the Bergers as the top two clubs that won promotion to the VPL. Last season the rivals drew 2-2 and the Bergers won 2-1.

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WIECZOREK BACK TO BEST FORM

By Greg Danvers

Newcastle Breakers promising young left wing-back Brad Wieczorek is starting to regain his match fitness and speed after missing the first five rounds through injury.

After an operation on both calves in the off-season, to rectify compartment syndrome, the locally produced speedster is playing well and with good reason as he comes off contract at the end of the 1999-2000 NSL season.

Wieczorek played in the Northern NSW NBN Soccer League with Hamilton Olympic for four seasons before joining the Breakers in 1998.

A player that can use both feet, scored a left-foot cracker against Adelaide in round 18, at Breakers Stadium, to record only his second NSL goal but expects to score a few more before the season is over in his quest to secure a contract at the Breakers for next season.

"I've had a few opportunities but it is good to finally get one (goal) away," Wieczorek said.

"My position (in the team) gives me the chance to create opportunities for other guys but i's always good to score goals yourself.

"Playing with the likes of Bobby Catlin and Andy Harper helps with your confidence and I am starting to find that now.

"It is pleasing to score goals or set them up and that's what I want to do."

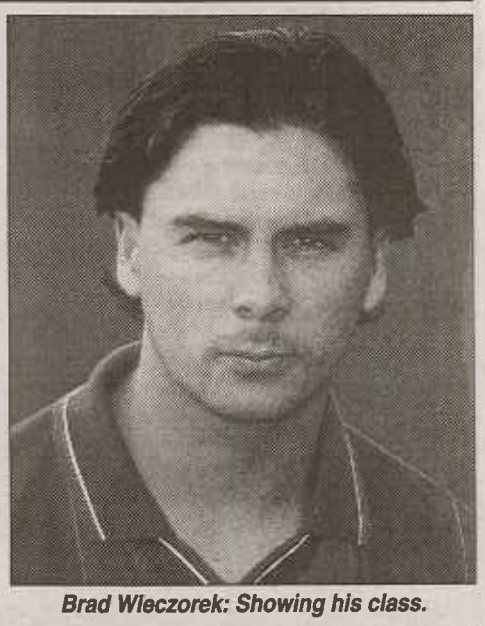
The Breakers are in the middle of one of the hardest sections of the draw playing Adelaide and South Melbourne twice and then Wollongong, Northern Spirit and Auckland.

The club is taking it one game at time as Wieczorek explains his thoughts on the next few weeks.

"Winning breeds confidence but we don't dwell on the confidence thing too much," Wieczorek said.

"We are taking it one game at a time. We know what we have got to do and we know what our job is and that's the basis of our plan at the moment.

"The confidence thing is coming from winning but also from knowing we are all doing the hard work."



Brad Wieczorek: Showing his class.

SWANCOTT WORKING HARD

By Greg Danvers

Another in the club that is working hard is home-grown back up 'keeper Brad Swancott. Swancott is a product of the Adamstown Rosebuds club and has represented his country at Young Socceroo and Olyroo level but is the under-study to Bob Catlin and prepared to learn from the 300 NSL veteran.

Former Breakers coach John Kosmina elevated Swancott from the youth side in 1997 to make his NSL debut at the age of 16. Since then he has played 21 NSL games.

Twenty of those under Kosmina and one appearance in the senior team, last season when Catlin missed a game, under Lee Sterrey.

Catlin has a high opinion of Swancott as the youngster learns his trade.

"Swanie has got a super attitude and trains very hard," Bob Catlin said of Brad Swancott.

"He's got plenty of time, he's learning the game, he's got a lot of positives about his game and I can see him serving Newcastle well in the future.

"Although we're team mates we compete for the one position. If someone is playing well in the number one spot then it means that the other blokes are pushing them hard from behind.

"If I can help out I will. It's all about passing something back to the game which will hopefully be passed on down the track."

One of Lee Sterrey's many masterpieces was to bring Catlin to Newcastle when he first came here as the attitude, confidence, experience and knowledge that Bobby Catlin is passing on, not only to Swancott, but the side right down to the Colts is immeasurable.

Brad Swancott: Learning from Bob Catlin.

NORTHERN NSW

NORTHERN NSW Soccer is about to explode into their competition with the Presidents Cup commencing at the weekend.

The 12 NBN and 2HD Soccer League clubs have been pooled into four groups of six to play a pre-season cup before the two leagues commence next month.

The groups are: -

Group A (Weston Park): Weston Bears, Easts Maitland, Cessnock Hornets, Thornton, Medowie and Phoenix.

Group B (Highfields Oval): Highfields Azzurri, Adamstown Rosebuds, Broadmeadow Magic, Mayfield United, Tingira Eagles, and Lambton Jaffas.

Group C (Edgeworth Oval): Edgeworth Eagles, Hamilton Olympic, Wallsend Red Devils, Dudley-Redhead, University and Singleton.

Group D (Johnson Park): West Wallsend, Beresfield, Lake Macquarie, Toronto-Awaba, South Cardiff and Belmont-Swansea.

NBN Soccer League Premiers Edgeworth Eagles are the reigning Presidents Cup Trophy holders and with grand final winners Hamilton Olympic in their pool will have their work infront of them to regain the coveted trophy.

Group C also features the 1999 2HD Soccer League grand final winners Dudley-Redhead and newcomers to second division in University.

Dudley-Redhead have lost a fair percentage of players and coach David Bolch who have joined first division club Belmont-Swansea. Dudley's loss will be Belmont's much needed boost as the Bel-Swans have floundered at the bottom of the first division for several years.

CHAY HEWS BACK HOME

PROFILE

D.O.B: 30.9.76
Height: 178cm
Weight: 77Kg
Eyes: .....Blue
Hair: .....Fair
Foot: .....Right-footed
Position: .....Centre midfielder
Started Playing: ...Playing since 5 years old
Previous Clubs: .....Willowburn colts, Q.A.S
Stats: .....Q.A.S for 2 years
.....Strikers since 1995
Loaned to: .....Bellmare Hiratsuka 1999
Highlight so far:Winning the 1997 Premiership
Ambition: .....To be a professional footballer
4 cd's unlivable without: .....
Pearl Jam, Matchbox 20, Nirvana unplugged, U2(Joshua Tree)
Favourite food: ..Auzzie steak, Pie and chips
Favourite TV Show: 2 guys, a girl and a pizza place
Favourite overseas player:Marco Van Basten
Favourite overseas team: .....Liverpool
Favourite Aussie player: .....Frank Farina
Hardest Opponent: .....Kasey Wehrman
Dream Choice of World league: ...Australia
Biggest influence: .....My Brovver!

By Sharon Jackson

Learning to say G'Day mate Japanese style is not the only thing Chay Hews has brought back from his stint in the J-league. He has just returned from a six-month contract for Bellmare Hiratsuka in the J-League, having been released by the Strikers for overseas experience. "It's been great," he says smiling broadly,

"I've come back much sharper with more to contribute and I can't wait to start."

Chay has been playing soccer almost as long as he can remember. His biggest influence has being his elder brother, his hero from the age of five, "Wherever he went, I followed and he's soccer-mad."

Originally from Belmont in NSW, the family moved to Toowoomba when he was 11. By this age, he was firmly hooked, "I played some rugby at school but found that soccer was much more interesting, it was less injury-prone and you could get a game anytime, anywhere- and with girls or boys."

He soon began learning his trade in earnest at the Soccer School of Excellence in Toowoomba set up by Peter Kelly, Southern District Director of Coaching. "That was really good because I learned a lot of skills very young. At 13, I began playing senior colts for Willowburn. It was pretty scary because at that stage, I had good skills but I was small compared to the others. The bigger guys weren't too keen on this as you might guess and so to survive, I learned to toughen up and be smart at an early age."

Playing, as he does in centre midfield, this stood him in good stead and he earned a scholarship at the Q.A.S at 16. "A big thanks go to my parents who drove me from Toowoomba three times a week for 2 years."

They have now retired to a well earned rest in Stanthorpe.

After this, Bruce Stell, then coach of the Strikers, spotted him, offered him a contract and the rest is history. "I'm in my fifth season now and I love it. Whatever happens, I'll end up here. It's also the lifestyle we have in Brisbane with the weather, the beaches, just the relaxed attitude to life. You just don't find that in Sydney or Melbourne.

"The people in Tokyo are really friendly and will help you if you get into difficulties. The language makes it really odd to begin with; just ordering a meal can be really hard.

"Luckily, some of the players had much better English than my Japanese"

In training the language barrier really made itself felt.

"It's really difficult to get a message across to someone, especially in a game situation where there's no time but after a while, you start to pick it up. We were lucky enough to have three coaches, one with an English FA licence who spoke English so that made it easier."

As you would expect in the first division, training is very intense, "We trained every day, sometimes twice a day depending on what was coming up. It's really professional and that's my ambition, to be a professional footballer."

Hews had a great time playing for Bellmare. "It was great. I loved it because it was so full on. It's a great set-up. They look after everything for you, accommodation, car, everything. All I had to do was turn up to training, learn and play well."

His career highlight to date has been the Strikers premiership in 1997 when he was noticed by Socceroo Coach, Terry Venables. "What can you say, when you win it all, what better feeling is there?"

Chay Hews: "I've come back much sharper."

Having had overseas experience, he's ambivalent about doing more, "There are so many great leagues around the world, you can't pick one out. I suppose I lean towards the English Premier League because it was what I watched as a youngster. Ideally though, I would love to be able to play soccer professionally here," he says "I didn't realize how much I missed it until I came back."

With the strikers having had such a great start to the season and now lying in the top six, Hews fancies their chances for the premiership: "We have every chance and we'll be going for it. We've beaten the major teams and we've carried it off once before so why not?"

Why not indeed. Welcome home, Chay and congratulations to you and Karolina on your upcoming wedding.

HARNWELL BIDES HIS TIME

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory's very first hit-out as a team happened on the morning of Sunday January 14 1996, against local side Kingsway Olympic in a friendly at Kingsway Reserve.

Glory's future looked encouraging even way back then when over 500 curious onlookers turned up to witness a moment in West Australian soccer history.

The only player to have remained with the club since that memorable day is their skipper Gareth Naven. (Jamie Afkos was also in the Glory line-up but he made his Glory debut in December 1997).

In the Kingsway side however, was a talented 18-year old defender named Jamie Harnwell and little did the tall youngster know he would be wearing the Glory colours so soon, just over two years later. He made his NSL debut as a 90th minute substitute against Brisbane Strikers in October 1998.

Jamie Harnwell: In action recently against Marconi.

Now, his imposing defensive capabilities are such that he could remain in the backline for an eternity, unless something of catastrophic proportions occurs. He has since earned the admiration of Olyroo coach Raul Blanco.

He will be the first to admit his work was cut out in that 1996 encounter against a raw Glory squad that was obviously keen to impress their coach Gary Marocchi, but there were already whispers within local soccer circles about Harnwell's ability.

In 1997, he missed out on collecting the prestigious Soccer West Coast Cassa Commerciale Fairest & Best Gold Medal with Sorrento, after receiving a red card mid-way through the season against Perth SC. More recently, he was one of Australia's best players in a World University Games tournament.

Adelaide City's Socceroo Damian Mori and Marconi Stallions' Francis Awaritefe to name just two strikers, will testify to the almost leech-like close-tagging method Harnwell employs when he is told by his coach to mark someone out of a game. Mori managed to find the net during last season's Elimination Final second-leg at a sardine-packed WACA Ground, when he scored in the 69th minute direct from a free-kick - conceded by Harnwell. Three minutes later and eager to atone, the defender sent Rob Trajkovski galloping down the right flank before meeting the ball in the Adelaide goal area and heading home a superb equaliser. He was also instrumental in the last gasp winner from Bobby Despotovski which sent the 25,000 plus fans into delirium.

To date and after 37 appearances, that is still the only goal he has scored, although he has indicated he wants to improve that area of his game. So what if by chance, he gets an Olympic call up? "If it happens it happens," he said. "I just want to keep doing my job for Glory for now and if something else eventuates that will be a bonus."

Jamie Harnwell: Patience paid off.

PROFILE

Date of Birth: .....21 July 1977
Place: .....Perth
Height: 1.88m
Weight: 86kg
Field position: .....Centre-half
Honours: ..WA State Team, Australian University Team Favourite local player: Alex Tobin (Adelaide Force)
Favourite Overseas club: ..Manchester .....United
Most memorable game: ..Last season's ..Elimination games with Adelaide City
Soccer influences: .....My father
Favourite food: ....Spaghetti Marinara
Soccer Hero: .....Bryan Robson
Hobbies: .....Beach, Golf
Person you would like to meet: ..Tiger .....Woods (golf)
Favourite sports show: .....English .....Premier League
Favourite computer game: .Goldeneye
Ambitions for next two years: Establish .....a first team spot

WOLLONGONG NEWS

By Otto Bader

Surprise, surprise the humble Wolves went atop of the NSL competition ladder with 35 points on Australia Day.

The punter heroic enough to place a wager early in the year would be laughing now with the odds narrowing quickly. The supporters must surely show up in numbers now, ready to break the ground record soon. Go you Wolves, go!

□□□□

The Wolves board appointed vastly experienced businessman and former tennis champion Greg Burgess as the new Marketing Manager of the club. With the team travelling at the top level his job could be made easier in attracting additional major sponsors and more public support.

Main sponsors at present are Kidz.net – the world's only safety net and Unanderra Hardware Man. Other sponsors are Prime TV and Fraternity club, BHP, Umbro, Wollongong Toyota and CUB Carlton, plus 60 or so corporate sponsors. A 'million dollar' sponsor would not go astray.

□□□□

Director of Special Projects Mario Mastroianni is enthusiastic that his 'pet-projects' in fund raising are bringing in results. He is proud of enlarging the Supporters Shop located just inside the gates at Brandon Park. It now has 30 different items to buy for the fans. A special 1000 club is up and running from 19th January over 10 weeks with $500 - prize money each week and in the last week major prizes $1000 –, $500 – and $200. The first week winner is Shaun Priestley.

□□□□

Ben Blake, a 23-year-old sweeper, has been given a contract with the Wolves. He played alongside David Cervinski with Gombak in Singapore last season. Originally a junior with Eastern Suburbs he played senior soccer with Rockdale, Marconi, Tampanese Rovers in Singapore and returning to Australia with Blacktown before once more playing in Singapore with Gombak.

□□□□

The Wolves have two local products that have made national selection, a fantastic honour for Illawarra soccer. Wolves Matt Horsley, a former Balgownie junior and Scott Chipperfield – a former Tarrawanna and Bellambi player – are named in the Australian soccer squad to tour Chile next month. While coach Nick Theodorakopoulos is proud that two of his players gained Socceroo selection he could rue losing them for several important games to come.

□□□□

The Wollongong Toyota Starlets are staging a Valentine's Day Ball at Corrimal League Club on February 11th, cost $30, start 7.30pm. Enquiries Edith Graham on 4256 5486 or George Thirtle on 4283 4274, don't miss it, you never know who you might meet.

□□□□

It's interesting the people one meets at soccer – at the recent Kemblawarra knockout an interested spectator was Glen Fontana – Director of Coaching in Illawarra and with him an overseas visitor – former Wollongong Wolves star midfield player John Latham, now living in South Africa. He is the head coach of South African Premier league soccer club De Wits University, located in Johannesburg. Only for a few days in Wollongong he saw the Wolves playing and the Kemblawarra tournament, won by the host club against Sydney opposition Fraser Park 1-0, taking the $2500 first prize.

il crostino

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BE PREPARED

Dear Sir,

I am still hopeful that one day we will realise that to compete on the world stage be it Socceroos or Olyroos we need valuable preparation.

Without the proper preparation we haven't got a chance. We saw what happened to the Olyroos against South Korea.

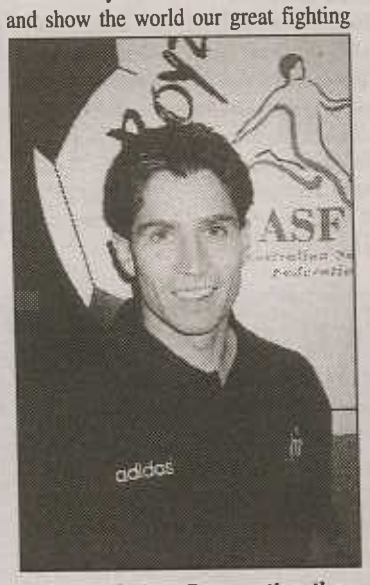
I hope Frank Farina took note our Socceroos need all the preparation they can get as well.

Preparation has been the main reason why we have only qualified once for the World Cup. If we can get the proper preparation, and that means having the team play together in lots of games I'm sure we can qualify.

Meanwhile talk it up! Talk to family members, relatives, friends, neighbours people on the street. Talk soccer to them. Educate them on the world game. The mainstream media might try to silence us but they can never silence the "word of mouth."

We have a great year of soccer coming up. The NSL is hotting up and it looks like it's anyone's premiership at the moment. I think we are in for a great finale.

Then we have Euro 2000 which just keeps on getting bigger and better all the time. Then there's the big one - the Olympics. To watch our Olyroos in front of our crowds will be something special. I can't wait to see it and I'm sure the boys will rise to the occasion and show the world our great fighting spirit and capture the imagination of the Australian public.



Frank Farina: Preparation the key.

Next year is World Cup qualification year so that is going to be huge, now more than ever it is important that we qualify for the next World Cup. So there is plenty to talk about.

So my fellow Soccer supporters, go out and preach the game and reap the rewards, we can make a difference.

Paul Bottari,
Soccer Mad Fan

Halleluiah! Praise the Lord! Paul the preacher has arrived!

Your right. No-one can silence a man who wants to speak.

But the most important thing you talk about IS preparation. I hope Frank Farina is reading this, but I'm sure he knows that if we are not prepared, we will not qualify for the World Cup in 2002.

Which begs the question of why we aren't sending the Olympic team to the upcoming tournament in Chile.

If we're talking preparation, surely we can't neglect the Olympics. They're just around the corner. - Ed.

DES RENFORD...R.I.P.

Dear Sir,

It is said that 'Clevo Boys' don't cry! It was a tougher call on those thousands of mourners who attended Des Renford's funeral at St Mary's Cathedral not to shed a tear.

Des was proud of his schooling at the rough and tough Cleveland St Boys' High School (1939-1941) before enlisting in the RAN.

Des was amongst the very first acceptances for the unique 144th Anniversary Reunion Dinner at the Royal Automobile Club on March 3rd, 2000.

He was looking forward to seeing Sir Nicholas Shedadie (former Lord Mayor and Rugby International), 'Nipper' Neilson, South Sydney supporters and a host of friends who attended the revered Redfern school in Cleveland Street.

He loved his old school of 'hard knocks'.

Des Renford's legacy will be recalled as a perpetual Sporting Award will be inaugurated at this Black Tie Reunion function. For further details contact Peter Deacon (02) 9799 3712 or email ppdeacon@bigpond.com

Peter P. Deacon
Postal Address:
P.O. Box 1000, Summer Hill
NSW 2130
Telephone/Facsimile:
(02) 9799 3712
Mobile: 0413 001944

Australia lost a great sportsman. "Clevo' lost a favourite son.

The world will miss him.

May he Rest in Piece. - Ed.

Send letters to

Australian and British Soccer Weekly

PO Box 155

Marrickville NSW 1475 or fax (02) 9550 9332

or e-mail to: soccerweekly@hotmail.com

THE END IS NEAR

Dear Sir,

Like many other fans I have this sense of impending doom.

The criteria set by SA for clubs in the National League seem about as achievable as pigs flying for all except a minority of Clubs.

Let's look at the picture for next Season South Melbourne, Marconi, Sydney Olympic can probably source the money through their community connections. Who mentions ethnicity now?

Spirit and Glory through their business connections and managment abilities — Assuming Spirit can get going on the park.

Power and possibly Carlton with assistance from other codes.

Auckland with help from Soccer NZ so that they can remain the development squad to Knock Oz out of the next World Cup/Olympics/Confederation Cup etc.

If SA wants to make special exceptions for Adelaide, Brisbane, Newcastle or Wollongong watch the lawyers descend like vultures on the dead or dying carcass of our great game.

That leaves an Eight-team league based in Perth, Melbourne, Sydney and NZ.

Who will be interested? Media? They would consider it a joke.

Sponsors? No media, no sponsors.

Fans? Who wants to watch a Mickey Mouse league with teams playing each other four times a season plus finals. Fans would have to be from Sydney, Melbourne, or, Perth anyway. Auckland isn't interested.

Bye Bye NSL.

Can someone tell me if this whole disaster is Woolley thinking, or does Basil share a sense of his own importance with his Fawlty Towers namesake?

Meanwhile can you get someone from SA to answer A. Huggins intelligent questions (ABSW 18/1/00), in detail and with reasons or justifications.

Tony Martin
Mountain Creek QLD
The Rest

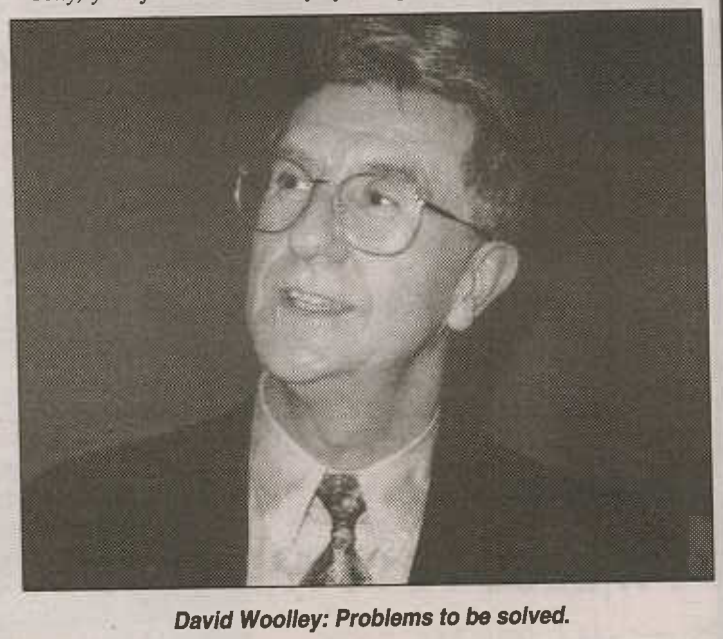
Tony, your forecast is worthy of being noted in the next published edition of any Nostradamus history book.

It sounds like, as far as your concerned the end is not just near, but virtually here already!!

Personally, I would like to think that it is not all doom and gloom just yet, and that there is still time for us to save our game from extinction, or worse, enveloped by the other codes.

In truth, there is only one way for us to go - up. Let's hope we all have the vision to go in the same direction together.

As far as A.Huggins' letter of the 18/1/00, I have forwarded to SA and eagerly await their reply. - Ed.



David Woolley: Problems to be solved.

ASIA IS OUR FUTURE

Dear Sir,

Now that the precedent has been set, with the Auckland Kingz being admitted into our National competition, why not continue to introduce more international teams from other countries close to Australia to form our own Super 12's Competition like Rugby Union has.

With FIFA's permission we could have a team from Hong Kong plus one from Singapore, one from Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Korea and Japan would be left out at this stage as they have their own strong domestic competitions (by Asian standards) and are a lot further away in travel time.

Obviously there could be teething problems involved such as refereeing in different countries plus possible overseas representation on the NSL board, which would become the I.S.L. or S.E.A.S.L. (South East Asian Soccer League).

However, the long term benefits would be enormous.

Unlike Rugby, Soccer has the advantage of drawing upon all the nations on the planet, not just South Africa, New Zealand and Australia in the Southern Hemisphere.

It's obviously plain to see that our administrators are not visionaries with courage to match, otherwise this future concept would have been implemented by now.

Another major benefit also would be, by helping and involving Asian club sides into our domestic competition, we will be more readily accepted into their national and international tournaments, such as the Asian Cup and Asian Games.

We all know that they, don't want us or New Zealand in their tournaments for various reasons, but we should keep trying to wriggle our way in somehow, not throw in the towel.

A future domestic competition involving many South East Asian Cities is one of the best ways of going about it. Of course the critics will once again come out and complain about helping other countries national teams get better, plus taking the place of local sides and so on.

But I say it's a small price to pay, even if we are reduced to five or six teams at home (one per state capital city, with two in Sydney). Imagine what could happen if we could get a fully professional competition up and running with major sponsors from overseas companies as well as local ones plus wide spread media coverage on free to air and pay TV from an overseas television broadcasting network, such as Hong Kong's SKY TV Channel.

Whether the number of teams are 12, 14, 16 or 18 isn't the major issue, what is, is the fact that we have the world game on our doorstep, and we are not taking full-advantage of it over our competitors.

Instead we are allowing them to catch up, or at least control the Oceania region by promoting their code throughout the Pacific Island countries.

That is the great shame in this part of the world where the weak Oceania Confederation has been isolated from Asia for so long up until now.

Let's just hope that the wheels are now put in motion to enhance our local competition with that of other nearby countries, now that air travel is the norm for transporting teams everywhere, so the game can reach its full potential at the domestic level, and not just at the international level.

Dominic Scullino,
Nerang. QLD.

A Super 12's for Soccer. Sounds great. In fact I'd love to see it and in principle you make some good points.

However, what will happen to the teams that don't make the 'Super 12's' cut? And how do they gain promotion to the Super 12's for the following season?

Also, you talk about overseas companies and their sponsorship dollars. This is so easy to say, yet in years gone by so difficult to find.

In principle, a great concept. In reality, probably a few years away as yet. Still if it happens eventually it would make for some very interesting weekend matches. - Ed.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ROUND 18 (Played Wednesday January 26)

SYDNEY UNITED 2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 5

The Wollongong Wolves totally outplayed Sydney United, winning at Edensor 2-5 but in the process, sent themselves to the top pf the table for the first time since 1988.

Both sides provided a highly entertaining and flowing display, with three goals coming in the first 11 minutes.

Wollongong took the lead on three minutes through Stuart Young before the Englishman scored his second in the 11th, less than a minute after Sydney United's young Olyroo Eddy Bosnar pulled the teams level.

Goals to Esala Masi and captain Matt Horsely all but wrapped up the game before Joe Moric made it 4-2 in the 79th minute.

As United pressed, The Wolves pounced and scored through new Socceroo Scott Chipperfield in the 90th.

3-S. Young (WW), 2-M. Horsley (WW), 1-R. Stanton (WW).

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2

For the second time in four days, the Gippsland Falcons suffered a stinging defeat at the hands of Sydney club Parramatta Power in a hard fought, but unattractive game of football.

In conditions more adapt to Water Polo, rather than Soccer, the luckless Falcons suffered a 2-0 loss in their encounter at Mobil Park on Australia Day.

Incessant rain made the surface of Mobil Park virtually unplayable and the conditions obviously took any finesse from the game.

Following a fairly even opening, with both sides clearly in the quest for an early goal, the visitors broke the deadlock at the 14th minute. Joel Griffiths freed himself, but his shot rebounded off a Gippsland defender.

A scramble developed in the goal mouth with no one able to control. Eventually Jacob Burns got a touch and saw the ball go past sliding players and Gippsland keeper Bojo Jevdjevic and over the line.

Four minutes into the second half, Parramatta extended its lead through a header by the high flying Walter Ardone.

3-W. Ardone (PP), 2-D. Barrett (PP), 1-M. Gotis (GF)

MARCONI STALLIONS 2
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Marconi substitutes Vlado Zoric and Alex Duric combined and scored two late goals last Wednesday night at the Marconi Stadium to enable their side to run out 2-0 winners in a drab match against the defiant Brisbane Strikers.

These two goals plus a magnificent second half save by Marconi's 18-year-old talented goalie Michael Turnbull, went a large part of the way to save the match as a spectacle.

Brisbane pressed Marconi and kept them scoreless and in fact could have taken the lead 19 minutes from the end when a cross from tough midfielder Nick Meredith saw young Peter Grierson connect with an on-target diving header, but a fabulous reflex save by Turnbull denied the Queenslanders the lead.

That was the turning point for Marconi who were let off the hook and seven minutes later Marconi's two substitutes opened the score.

Ball playing midfielder Vlado Zoric in the 78th minute rounded defender Brad Ditton on the left to cross into the box. Lanky substitute striker Alex Duric won the aerial battle to nod home his goal and break the deadlock.

Two minutes into stoppage time Zoric himself scored when he calmly side-footed the rebound into the target when Sean Babic had struck the base of the far post with his angled blast from the right.

The match lacked almost all entertainment value and enterprise with Marconi defending with a new look 'back-five' to stem the recent avalanche of home goals conceded.

3-M. Turnbull (MF), 2-V. Zoric (MF), 1-P. Grierson (BS).

ADELAIDE CITY 2
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

Adelaide City Force slammed the brakes on Newcastle Breakers record unbeaten nine-game run with this morale-boosting success at Hindmarsh Stadium.

City produced its most convincing home display of the season to avenge its away game defeat to the Breakers, suffered just six days earlier, to significantly revive its finals chances.

A life-line goal by rookie Matthew Kemp in the seventh minute and a superb volley from Italian import Claudio Pelosi in the 33rd minute, gave City the bountiful buffer it fully deserved.

AIS graduate, Kemp posted his second goal of the campaign when he accepted a fine through ball from Pelosi to charge through the centre of the Newcastle defence before side-footing home.

Pelosi's goal (his fifth for the season) was all class when he capitalised on a loose clearance after Aurelio Vidmar challenged for a header in the box.

Newcastle signalled its desire to qualify for the finals by flying direct to Melbourne to prepare for the big challenge against the NSL champion.

While City's positives from the Australia Day match outstripped the negatives by the length of Rundle Mall, the Force still has not discarded their habitual second half fade out.

3-C. Veart (AC), 2-C.Pelosi (AC), 1-A. Tobin (AC)

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

Melbourne Croatia coach Vlado Vanis issued a public warning to Nigerian defender Murtala Toyin Abbas after his team had scrambled to a 1-1 draw with fellow National League strugglers Canberra Cosmos at Bruce Stadium on Wednesday.

Abbas was responsible for the penalty from which Canberra equalised, bringing down Gabriel Gonzalez in the 66th minute.

"As an imported member of the squad it is not good enough to play just an average game, he must always be in the top three in the club, otherwise he is out in the street."

While the score was the same as that when the sides played in Melbourne the previous weekend, the game itself was virtually a mirror image.

In the first meeting the Knights had been the dominant side, this time Vanis admitted he had been glad to hear the final whistle. As in Melbourne, it was the Knights who scored first, Adrian Cervinski pumped a long cross into the Canberra penalty area and Zeljko Susa drifted in unmarked to crack the ball past the exposed Angelo Konstantinou.

The equaliser did not come until the second half, following the penalty incident. Ivo De Jesus, who had been on the field just four minutes, was cool, calm and collected in stroking his spot kick out of reach of the diving John Martin.

3-R. Hooker (CC), 2-R. Vargas (MK), 1-A. Roberts (CC).

AUCKLAND KINGZ 4
PERTH GLORY 1

By Gareth Duggan (In Auckland)

The Auckland Kingz produced the best result of their brief existence when they beat Perth Glory 4-1 at North Harbour Stadium last Wednesday night.

Referee Simon Micallef was forced to play a central role, sending off two Glory players and brandishing the yellow card eight times.

Fortunately, the Kingz at least managed to rise above the worst of the tempestuousness and play some controlled and intelligent soccer.

Hamilton Thorp was the first to get his marching orders picking up two bookings.

Five minutes later Mark Elrick struck a trademark long-range effort which left Jason Petrovic helpless as the Kingz went 1-0 up.

However, the Glory made ammends when the Kingz defence failed to close down Gareth Naven, and he was able to equalise just before the break.

Ten minutes into the second half Dino Mennillo underlined his value to the Kingz with his team's second goal — another long-range effort after a corner was only half cleared.

The best goal of the game came with just eight minutes remaining, when a series of pin-point passes released Mennillo and he made no mistake.

The final two minutes of the match were again marred by ill discipline, with Troy Halpin needlessly catching Kingz substitute Riki Van Steeden late and getting his marching orders.

To make matters worse for the Glory, a goalmouth scramble then saw Aaron Silva grab his team's fourth goal.

3-D. Mennillo (AK), 2-C. Bunce (AK), 1-T. Halpin (PG).

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

Defending titleholder South Melbourne won a penalty and overcame two send-offs to beat former league leader Sydney Olympic 2-0 at Bob Jane stadium on Australia Day to avenge its six-goal away loss three days earlier.

South got the break in the sixth minute, when John Anastasiadis was brought down in the box by Ante Juric and Steve Panopoulos gave the home team the lead with a penalty in the bottom left corner, leaving Olympic 'keeper George Bouhoutsos chanceless.

Trouble struck the lakesiders in the 14th minute, when referee Con Diomis red-carded Nick Orlic for a heavy tackle on Zlatko Arambasic, leaving them a player short.

Postecoglou's substitution of Anastasiadis for Michael Curcija in the 61st minute paid off three minutes later. Curcija threaded the ball through the Olympic defence and new signing Andy Vlahos found the net on the turn in the right corner to extend South's lead.

Olympic mounted a veritable assault on goal, but a desperate SouthMelbourne defence held firm, with 'keeper Chris Jones making several brilliant saves to be man of the match.

The home side had their backs to the wall when defender Fausto DeAmicis was sent off for his second bookable offence on the 80th minute.

3-C. Jones (SM), 2-A. Vlahos (SM), 1-G. Mendez (SO).

NORTHERN SPIRIT 3
CARLTON 2

In a game of two completely different halves the Northern Spirit celebrated Australia Day by deservedly recording only their fourth home win of the season.

A first half which has become all too common place this season, saw the Spirit outnumber Carlton in scoring opportunities yet go into the break 1-0 down after Archie Thompson coverted for Carlton.

But in the true Spirit of fireworks to celebrate the occasion the Spirit pressed getting a relieving equaliser through David Seal.

Although the match livened up it was Carlton who took the lead. A tap-in from six yards from a free-kick that should never have been.

With eight minutes to go and the season all but a memory the Spirit began a fightback worthy of victory.

A Matthew Langdon cross on the far left was headed back in field by livewire sub Abbas Saad for man of the match Matthew Bingley to volley from the edge of the area, the ball sizzling past Anastasiadis in the Carlton goal.

The escape was complete when the Spirit re-enacted a now Man.United classic for the 7138 fans that braved the conditions.

Reminiscent of the Solksjaer winner in the European Cup Final, Saad stabbed into the roof of the net after Mark Rudan headed down a Robbie Slater corner.

Three valuable points and complete value for money at the Spirit. They're not done yet.

3-M. Bingley (NS), 2-A. Saad (NS), 1-M. Langdon (NS).

ROUND 18 LINE UPS

GIPPSLAND FALCONS 0
PARRAMATTA POWER 2
(Burns 14, Berry 49)

Venue: Falcons Stadium **Crowd:** 1,952. **Ref:** W Dade

Gippsland: Jevdjevic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, MacNicol, Bell, Puca, Robertson, Hutchinson, Marcina (Savage 76), Nilo (Kakos 76).

Parramatta: Gibson, Barrett, Santalab, Vrkic, Burns, Ardone, Sterjovski, Griffiths (Angelucci 76), Berry, Byrnes, Bennett.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2
(Kemp 7, Pelosi 33)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium **Crowd:** 3,895. **Ref:** Connolly.

Adelaide City: Knezevic, Hornjik, Tobin, Veart, Costanzo, Kim, Sabljak (Hassell 63), Kemp (Talladira 83), Vidmar, Pelosi, Mori (Brain 75).

Newcastle: Catlin, Pryce, McManus, Sprod, Dodd, Buonavoglia (Wilson 71), Wieczorek, Owens, Trpcevski (Roberts 80), Harper (Tancheski 61), Moore.

SYDNEY UNITED 2
(Bosnar 10, Moric 79)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 5
(Young 3 & 11, Masi 55, Horsely 72, Chipperfield 90)

Venue: Syd Utd Sports Centre **Crowd:** 3,222. **Ref:** Breeze.

Sydney United: Hughes, Bosnar, Savoca, Jurilj, Arrarte, Pondeljak, Maric, Rastall (Moric 61), Genc, Bosevski (Younis 57), Usljebrka.

Wollongong: Pogliacomi, Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsely, Young, Chipperfield, Harlock, Petrovski (Surjan 46), Huxley, Masi (Spencer 73).

AUCKLAND KINGZ 4
(Elrick 40, Mennillo 55 & 82, Silva 90)
PERTH GLORY 1
(Naven 45)

Venue: Nth Harbour Std **Crowd:** 3,000. **Ref:** Micalleff.

Auckland: Utting, Bunce, Stergiopoulos, Mennillo, Middleby, Ngata (Van steeden 63), Osman, Vicelich (Perry 66), Jones, Elrick (Riddle 72), Silva.

Perth: Petrovic, Trajkovski, Miller, Naven, Harnwell, Thorp, Halpin, Junior, Edwards (Afkos 78), Buljan (Carbone 70), Boutsianis.

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
(De Jesus 65pen)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
(Susa 73)

Venue: Bruce Stadium **Crowd:** 1,959. **Ref:** Shield

Canberra: Konstantinou, Milin, Popovich, Polak (Prenzoski 71), Watkins (Purdue 78), Arranz, Hamilton, James, Hooker, Roberts (De Jesus 57), Gonzalez.

Melbourne: John, Rajher (Reda 83), Kovacevic, Vukadin, Urlovic, Murtala (Silic 71), Banini (Rados 75), Kiratzoglou, Vargas, Susa, Cervinski.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
(Panopoulos 6pen, Vlahos 64)
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0

Venue: Bob Jane Stadium. **Crowd:** 5827. **Ref:** Diomis

South Melbourne: Jones, DeAmicis, Orlic, Blatsis, Panopoulos (Lozanovski 87), Trimboli, Anastasiadis (Curcija 61), Alagich, Tsekinis, Liparoti, Vlahos (Coveny).

Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Zoricich, Juric, Arambasic (Carle 62), Cardozo, Emerton, Sinozic, Mendez, Wilson, Zorbas (Tome 81).

MARCONI STALLIONS 2
(Duric 78, Zoric 92)
BRISBANE STRIKERS 0

Venue: Marconi Stadium. **Crowd:** 3828 **Ref:** Lennie

Marconi Stallions: Turnbul, M.Babic, Farah (Renaud 61), Longo, Smith, Invincible, McDonald, Maloney (Zoric 61), Gibson: Trajanovski (Duric 68), S. Babic.

Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Battistin, Gwynne, McLaren: Ditton, Pilic (Dwyer 61), Hews, Meredith (Shrhoj 77), North: Baldwin, Grierson.

NORTHERN SPIRIT 3
(Seal 51, Bingley 82, Saad 90)
CARLTON 2
(Thompson 39, Moreira 63)

Venue: North Sydney Oval. **Crowd:** 7138 **Ref:** Dwight

Northern Spirit: Perosh, Enes (Saad 65), Langdon, Bingley, Casserly, Slater, Perinich, Seal, Bilokapic, Cunico (Rudan 72), Sobczyk.

Carlton: Anastasiadis, Deans, Marth, Moreira, Lapsansky, Thompson, Markovski (Conroy 55), Anthopoulos, Terminello, Packer (Atkinson 75), Azzopardi.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1

By Graham Cooke

This is beginning to get repetitive: A rather ordinary and disjointed Canberra Cosmos fall behind to their opponent, then lift their game and take a point in a 1-1 draw.

It happened twice against Melbourne Knights, and on Friday night it happened again when Gippsland Falcons were the visitors to Bruce Stadium.

A perplexed Canberra coach, Tom Sermanni, praised a spirited second-half performance where better finishing could easily have sealed the win. "But it seems I have to do the lunatic act in the dressing room at half time to get the players going," he said.

"We must begin to play with more composure in the early parts of the game. It seems the opposition has always got to score first before we step up."

He may be a shade hard on his squad this time round. Gippsland is not as bad a team as recent performances might suggest, and their consistent harrying never allowed the home side to settle on the ball.

That led to a raised tempo, with players rushed into making mistakes. As a result Canberra made little use of a superior amount of possession and moves broke down consistently in the approach to goal.

However, two games in 48 hours is not a recipe for 90 minutes of helter-skelter. Gippsland's midfield competitiveness was blunted as the game wore on and the pattern developed into one of dogged defence against an opponent which probed ever deeper in search of the elusive winner.

Paul Roberts: Plenty of running.

Falcons team boss Jeff Hopkins praised his team for "putting their bodies on the line and coming away with a point".

"Two games in such a short space is a bit rugged, especially for our small squad, but it happens all over the world and we live with it," he said.

"I'm just happy we got something from an away match."

A generally undistinguished game was illuminated by two goals within a minute of each other on the cusp of half-time. First Brian MacNicol, who probably deserves the freedom of Morwell for his services to the club, somehow twisted away from two defenders and plonked in a cheeky, dipping shot that had goalkeeper Angelo Konstantinou groping at thin air.

Just as the Falcons were coming to terms with the pleasant prospect of an interval lead, Canberra struck back. Mehmed Durakovic was penalised for hand ball on the edge of the penalty area - Hopkins believes the defender in fact performed a perfectly legal header.

Jason Polak dummied the free kick, leaving Gabriel Gonzalez clear to drive his shot across the face of goal and past the diving Bojo Jevdjevic into the far corner of the net.

Most of the second half running was made by the Cosmos, with several chances falling to the lively Paul 'P.J.' Roberts: a snap shot just over the bar, a header into the hands of Jevdjevic and, deep into stoppage time, a powerful drive deflected away by the acrobatic goalkeeper.

Perhaps the most significant moment for Canberra came in the 72nd minute when Gonzalez was carried off with a badly torn groin. The hard-running midfielder has been playing an increasingly important role for his team in recent games and his absence - most likely for at least a month — will present yet another headache for Sermanni.

The three draws, added to a 3-2 win over Marconi, equal the longest unbeaten run in Cosmos history. The record is there for the taking - something to inspire the team in the daunting task against Sydney Olympic on Sunday.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 3
AUCKLAND KINGZ 1

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane Strikers' roller coaster ride in the national league was again on the upward spiral after a comprehensive 3-1 win over Auckland Kingz at Suncorp Stadium on Saturday night.

The Strikers slipped out of the Top Six for the first time this season losing their third straight match to Marconi on Australia Day, but regrouped to produce a superb display against the Kiwis.

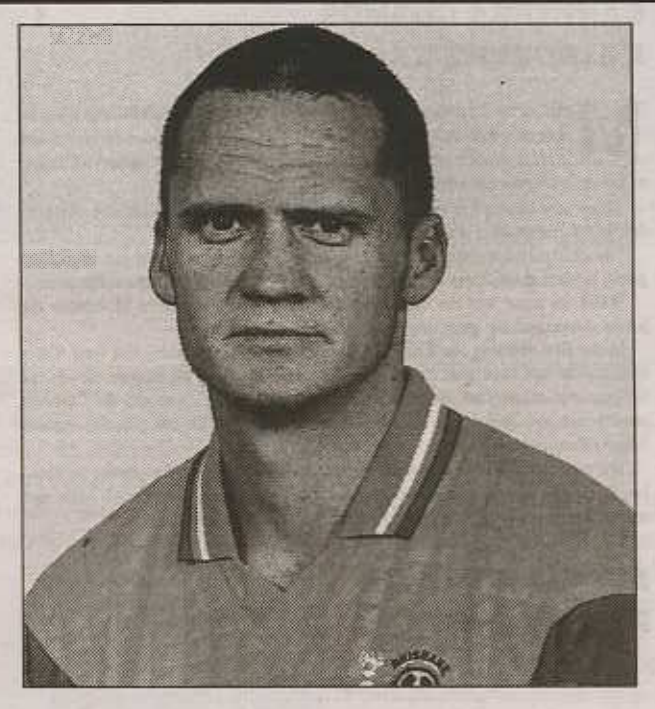
The Strikers, one-time leaders of the competition, showed they still were strong finals contenders against the Kingz who were sapped of energy in the humid conditions.

Brisbane couldn't have asked for a better start when sipper Stu McLaren ranged high to drive home a powerful header off a Nick Meredith cross which gave Kingz' keeper Mike Utting no chance.

The Kingz, who were coming off a convincing win over Perth Glory, struggled for possession in the opening half allowing the homeside to launch many raids.

Their only real bright spot came midway through the second half when a few tactical changes enabled them to get back into the match, albeit too late trailing by two goals.

McLaren almost scored a second in the 18th minute with a mishit cross which had Utting on the back pedal and only just managed to hold out the ball from crossing the line.



Nick Meredith: Man of the Match.

Utting was called upon again three minutes later to deny striker Peter Grierson who ran to the 18-metre line before unleashing a powerful strike.

The Strikers went to the break with a well deserved two-goal buffer after cracking the visitors' defence in the 28th minute.

Youngster Wade Baldwin, starting for only the fourth time this season, finished off a superb movement for his first national league goal.

The movement started down the left flank by Meredith who slipped a perfect pass through for Chay Hews who in turn crossed deep to the far post where Baldwin slid his shot under the Auckland keeper.

Auckland's best chance in the first half fell to Levent Osman, whose 40 metre blast almost caught Strikers' keeper Clint Bolton by surprise.

But Bolton showed why he was chosen by Socceroo coach Frank Farina for next month's Four Nations tournament in Chile by brilliantly tipping Osman's attempt over the bar.

The Strikers delivered a deathblow to the visitors just three minutes after the break when Hews landed only his second career goal in the National League, slamming home the third with a thundering 25-metre volley.

The Kingz' only goal can from substitute Stu Riddle, who replaced midfielder Jon Perry at halftime.

Riddle provided the visitors with some late hope of snaring a draw heading past Bolton from close range in the 63rd minute.

CARLTON 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1

By Bert van Bedaf

Sydney Olympic beat Carlton 1-0 at Olympic Park last Saturday night in a ordinary match that offered little entertainment. Olympic had four opportunities on goal and grabbed the last one, while Carlton swamped the Olympic defence but overdid the passing game and regularly overlooked the loose player.

At one stage in the second half, forward Archie Thompson ran into open space on the left and should have crossed to an unmarked Alex Moreira on the right inside the box, but a playful Thompson kept running only to be closed down by three Olympic defenders and robbed of the ball.

Last season's top NSL marksman and latest Socceroos squad member Pablo Cardozo headed home in the 73rd minute from a Marcus Phillips cross for his 10th goal of the season.

Carlton, who slumped to its second loss in three days and its second home defeat for the season, had switched its match from Friday night to Saturday night in a bid to lift its attendance. But the club's latest fixture experiment proved as disappointing as its lacklustre performance, attracting a modest 2334 crowd.

"This is a serious setback for us. I wasn't at all happy with our performance. We have to set our standards a lot higher than that," Carlton coach Stuart Munro said.

"We do things wrong in some areas. The players are trying to do things that get us into trouble at times, trying to beat another man. We'll need to be playing the ball a bit quicker and not overdo it (passing)," he said.

Sydney Olympic coach Branko Culina said he was happy with the result after the club's 2-0 loss against a nine-men South Melbourne three days earlier.

"Happy with the result, yes, but not the standard. I though it was pretty ordinary. We looked sluggish and flat. There was no zip," Culina said.

Stuart Munro: Not happy.

"But the result is most important. We need to work on a few things, but we showed enough character to slog it out against a good opponent," he said.

Carlton took the initiative at the start with Joshua Kennedy making his debut partnering Alex Moreira up front. Kennedy got close to an early opener with a looping header from an Andrew Marth free-kick after 12 minutes, but Olympic 'keeper George Bouhoutsos just got a touch to palm the ball for a corner.

"Josh did well," Munro said. "He's still a bit raw. But he showed quality," he said of the talented 17-year-old.

Out of the Carlton team were Sean Douglas, who returned from New Zealand with a broken wrist and is set to miss six weeks, as well as John Markovski and Craig Deans, following Carlton 3-2 loss to Northern Spirit in Sydney.

Olympic managed a couple of shots on goal in the opening phase, one of them a well-taken free-kick by Pablo Cardozo that just sailed over the crossbar.

Carlton replied with shots by Thompson and Lubo Lapsansky at the half hour stage, but Sebastian Sinozic blocked the first attempt and Bouhoutsos saved the latter.

Olympic's first clear chance came from a Norman Tome free-kick on the right flank after 52 minutes. Scott Baillie rose well above the Carlton defence but headed over the bar in front of goal from close range.

Carlton nearly hit the front in the 63rd minute, when Lubo Lapsansky made a run wide on the left. Gabriel Mendez blocked his path and deflected the ball on to the near post before it was cleared.

Mendez showed his flair with a run on goal on 70 minutes, going past Mark Atkinson and Colin Azzopardi to be one-on-one with Carlton 'keeper Dean Anastasiadis, who blocked the shot. Azzopardi and Terminello cleared with Phillips turning the rebound over the bar.

Olympic hit the front after 73 minutes with a diving header by Cardozo.

Phillips dummied to go past David McPherson and crossed to the prolific scorer, who was left unmarked and dead in front to register his 10th goal of the season.

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

PARRAMATTA POWER 4
NORTHERN SPIRIT 3

By John Economos

The Parramatta Power last Saturday night overpowered an equally cavalier Northern Spirit 4-3 at the Parramatta Stadium in easily the season's most entertaining, high scoring battle seen to date where strong disciplined defence was almost non-existent with all energies focused on full scale attacks.

With both sides having former World Cup strikers as their respective coaches, what else could one expect?

David Mitchell and Graham Arnold turned their forces loose and into non stop attacking Soccer that left the fans throughout the match in total delirious ecstasy.

This cross town derby was played in similar style and attitude to One Day cricket with emphasis on defensive tactics almost non existent. In fact the first 'innings' not only ended at 2-2, but all four goals were scored within the first 26 minutes.

Three times Parramatta powered ahead, and three times the spirited visitors, and to their credit, bounced back to 'balance the books'.

Power's mobile blond striker Joel Griffiths grabbed a first-half brace of goals, the first as early as in the 10th minute when he head-glanced Power's captain and free back Richard Plesa's free kick into the target.

Spirit's clinical marksman David Seal hit back just two minutes later to level by slamming in the rebound after Luke Casserly's shot was only parried by Power's former international goalkeeper Mike Gibson.

The 16th minute saw the Power regain the lead when Griffiths scored his second, again a header, from a Michael Santalab corner.

But in the 26th minute the Spirit again pulled level, this time from left wingback Matthew Langdon. The flanker veered infield to let fly with his right boot an on-target blast which Seal cleverly jumped over the top to allow the missile to crash into the net.

Only 26 minutes of play and with four goals already on the board the crowd was screaming for more and three more came in the 'second innings'.

A minute from halftime the Power's experienced wide midfielder Steve Berry blasted on target but his shot deflected off a Spirit defender before ricochetting off the top of the horizontal.

Five minutes after the break the Power again surged forward to a 3-2 lead when left defender Michael Santalab scored with a header from a Walter Ardone free kick.

Unbelievably, just two minutes later the Spirit again drew level as Seal from the back post headed in a cross from the right.

With now six goals having flooded in, and both sides committed to launching themselves into full scale attacks, Soccer was a real winner.

In the 54th minute the goal-feast finally dried up as stylish international striker Mile Sterjovski hit the Power's final and winning goal after an excellent lead up combination from Plesa, Steve Laybutt and Berry.

The Power's midfield playmaker Walter Ardone was magnificent with his long ranged distribution plus making long diagonal support runs forward, whilst striker Mile Sterjovski worked hard making long off-the-ball runs wide, to drag the Spirit defenders apart.

Seal was magnificent and together with blond sweeper Matthew Bingley the pair had their best game of the season for the Spirit.

The overall texture of the game was so saturated with attacks that not a single fan left the Stadium disgruntled. It was just a shame that there had to be a loser.

Best performers for the Power were midfield playmaker Ardone, stylish striker Sterjovski, tough stopper making his debut for the Power Laybutt, but at left midfield plus double-scorer Griffiths, whilst for the Spirit outstanding were Seal with his brace of goals, Bingley and central midfielder Troy Cranney.

A quietly humble and pleased Power coach David Mitchell, later reflected: "It has been great to reel off three wins in a row. I thought that Laybutt (Steve) had a good and strong influence in our midfield by adding strength. It was an entertaining game between two cross-town rivals.

Walter Ardone: Brilliant.

"I had not been happy with the way we were sitting on the League table but both sides tonight showed passion and now we have had three wins for nine (League) points, plus have two games in hand. People tend to write teams off too early, but we are taking one game at a time."

Meanwhile the Spirit's dry humoured coach Graham Arnold turned to Mitchell sitting next to him and evaluated: "I hate to say this Mitch, but you had a penalty denied to you."

Arnold then turned to the media and continued: " We conceded four goals from four set pieces which is ridiculous and we came back three times. Those things you can't coach-you do it on the board (black) and then on the training pitch, but in a game they have to do it themselves.

"I had to take off Langdon (Matthew) at the break as he was suffering even before the game with diarrhoea. Seal (David) had his best game for us so far and is getting fitter, stronger and sharper. He's a good 'box' player."

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0

By Bert van Bedaf

It took South Melbourne just over an hour to break down Newcastle's resolve to be back in the hunt for a third national title in a row. A persistent South beat Newcastle Breakers 2-0 at Bob Jane stadium last Sunday in front of a crowd of nearly 7500.

Goran Lozanovski finally crashed through the Newcastle wall with a 64th minute cracker and Michael Curcija put the icing on the win with a looping header four minutes into time added-on.

It was Newcastle's second two-goal loss in a row after their 2-0 defeat against Adelaide the previous round.

"This is our third game in a week. It takes a lot out of the players and Newcastle are hard to break down," South coach Ange Postecoglou said.

"Lozanovski scored a great goal and getting the second helps our goal average. It's going to be important in closing the gap in the end, who's in the final six and who's not. There's still a lot of games to go."

South Melbourne plays Newcastle again away on Wednesday and Northern Spirit on Friday. The team will stay in Sydney for the two games. "We haven't travelled well (performed well away) and it's important for us to rake up some points," Postecoglou said.

Newcastle coach Lee Sterrey was disappointed with the result, but he said, "I'm happy with the boys over all. We should have got them (South) on the break in the first half. In the second half we got punished when we went asleep for 30 seconds after a throw in and three substitutions.

"I have a young side and they're going through a learning curve. But they're giving their all and we're gonna stick with it. We face them (South) again on Wednesday and I hope we can turn it around," he said.

High on winners' octane after disposing of Sydney Olympic 2-0 with nine men, South Melbourne began the job against Newcastle with two good forays into the Breakers camp. The Lakesiders missed Fausto DeAmicis and Nick Orlic through suspension, allowing Lozanovski and George Goutzoulis to enter the starting 11.

Goran Lozanovski: Celebrates with Paul Trimboli after scoring against Newcastle.

John Anastasiadis got inside the box on 14 minutes and had a shot that Bob Catlin palmed before it was cleared, while Andy Vlahos wiped his nose in the grass to head the ball just wide from a Con Blatsis cross four minutes later.

With Andy Harper busy up front, spraying passes, Newcastle got forward but failed to threaten South 'keeper Chris Jones.

The homeside pushed forward in numbers without result. Frustration set in after 35 minutes, when all of South's pressure didn't yield them the desired goal. Goran Lozanovski, working hard on the right, got the first yellow card.

Michael Curcija should have scored in the 59th minute after a well-executed one-two with Lozanovski, but the usually accurate forward side-footed his shot wide on the run inside the box.

South finally broke the deadlock in the 64th minute. Vlahos got in a cross to Curcija, who pushed it in front of Lozanovski. This time the right winger took no chances, smashing the ball low into the net past Catlin from just outside the box.

Lozanovski, after an average first half, produced a 40-metre scorcher on 75 minutes that blistered Catlin's fingers as he pushed it over the bar with a reflex save.

Curcija also unleashed a long-range shot and Vaughan Coveny (on for Anastasiadis in the 63rd minute) hit the base of the right post in the closing stages.

Curcija took advantage of a defensive mishap, when Glenn Moore and Todd McManus collided, heading home South's second from a Chris Jones goal kick.

SYDNEY UNITED 1
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1

By Daniel Giorelando

A controversial goal two minutes into injury time from substitute Adrian Cervinski helped the Melbourne Knights to a much deserved 1-1 draw at Edensor Park last Sunday night.

The Knights, who trailed as early as the second minute managed to scramble in an equaliser which seemed to come from a foul on United keeper Brett Hughes.

Hughes fell heavily following a challenge by Ivan Kelic, following a cross from the right, but referee Eddie Lennie ignored the pleas of the United defence allowing the goal to stand.

Hughes lay motionless on the ground for the next 30 seconds as the Knights players celebrated their much-deserved goal.

And only a minute later United were once again given the short end of the stick by Lennie, who failed to award a penalty in the third minute of stoppage time to Aytec Genc as he was taken down in the area by Alex Kiratzoglou.

Genc was free on goal and whilst Kiratzoglou seemed to take down United's captain in the area, Lennie signalled that the Knights defender had disposed Genc of the ball fairly.

Following this week's turmoil following the dismissal of David Ratcliffe as United coach, the cellar dwellers to their credit came out firing, stunning their opponents with a goal in the second minute to Zvonko Usljebrka.

A seemingly innocuous ball through the middle was turned into a defence splitter as a dummy by Mario Jerman caught the Knights defence in two minds.

Usljebrka received the ball and made a weaving 25-metre run, getting past two defenders and then burying his shot into the top right corner of the net, leaving Knights keeper Martin John with no chance. The goal was Usljebrka's first for the club, and only the club's 13th goal of the season.

To their credit however the Knights looked the better of the two sides but were unable to pierce the resolute United defence and in particular keeper Brett Hughes.

The 31-year-old Hughes was brilliant for United, making three world class saves to deny certain goals to Cervinski in the 45th, Kiwi Paul Urlovic in the 65th and then a low header from Ivan Kelic in the 83rd.

Cervinski pulled out the first of a hat-trick of stunning saves from Hughes as his low shot from a tight angle was blocked low to the left post although the Knights should have scored from the rebound as Cervinski's centre ball was blasted over by Urlovic.

And it was Urlovic who was next to have a certain goal stopped by Hughes. A superb ball by Joey Rajher freed up Urlovic on the left who blasted a high shot only to see Hughes batter the ball into the air and the United defence to clear any danger.

Brett Hughes: World class saves.

In the second half the United attack was shut down as the Knights pressed for an equaliser which seemed certain to come from Kelic who sent in a low header only to find an outstretched Hughes tap the ball around his right-hand post.

But all of Hughes heroics were undone by some rough referring calls, although in the end no one could deny the Knights their deserved equaliser, a goal which keeps the gap between themselves and United at the bottom of the table to four points.

TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE

ADELAIDE CITY 2
MARCONI STALLIONS 2

By Allan Crisp

"The operation was a success, but the patient passed away," was the terse post-match comment offered by Adelaide City coach Zoran Matic after his team surrendered two crucial home points to the Marconi Stallions.

City had the game firmly in its keeping, territorially and on the scoreboard, until five minutes from full-time when a Brendan Renaud cross from the left was deflected into the net by Marconi striker Sean Babic, via goalkeeper Vilson Knezevic and Alex Tobin.

Former Socceroo captain Tobin appeared to have the last touch of the ball before it entered the net as he vainly attempted to prevent the catastrophic conclusion.

Referee Matthew Breeze later pencilled in Babic as the official scorer, explaining that decision was subject to his viewing the replay because a doubt existed and he wanted to be correct on the issue.

"I'll certainly take the credit for any goal scored," was Babic's understandable reaction to his side's great escape act.

Marconi went close to converting that late leveller into a winning scoreline a minute on as substitute Brendan Renaud floated over a cross which Sean Babic headed low onto the far post.

But, in the final analysis, Matic knew that his side had squandered a glorious opportunity to reinforce its finals aspirations.

"How many chances does anyone want," lamented Matic. "We had three on two situations, yet we still couldn't score.

Youngster, Christian Care gave Marconi a dream start with a fifth minute goal when he slipped through the centre to slot a low shot past Knezevic in the Force goal.

It could have been 2-0 two minutes later as bouncy Babic charged into the box only to be met by a brave sliding stop from Knezevic.

City threw off the shock of the early set back to produce a quality equalier through the artistry of man-of-the-match Angelo Costanzo and former Cremonese striker Claudio Pelosi.

Costanzo curled a superb pin-point cross from the right to Pelosi, who headed the ball into the far left hand corner of Michael Turnbull's net.

That brilliant effort brought Pelosi's strike rate to six goals from 13 games and reinforced his reputation as the new found darling of the City fans.

However, Pelosi was forced off the field in the 87th minute after succumbing to a recurrence of a groin injury, which put him in doubt before the game.

Unfortunately for City, Pelosi lost the ball shortly after signalling to the bench that he could not continue and the turnover resulted in Marconi's late goal.

With Costanzo as the home team ringleader and with Carl Veart continuing his breathtaking form of the last four matches, City unleashed full throttle power on the Stallions.

Usual hit-man, Damian Mori played behind Pelosi and Aurelio Vidmar to create confusion in the Marconi defence and the inevitable home town lead arrived as Mori engineered a great left-flank floater for Nick Sabljak to crack home a first-time drive which set the scoreboard flickering at 2-1.

The early threats posed by Sean Babic and Care lessened as Costanzo, Tobin, Atila Hornjik, and Brad Hassell, deputising for Dong Ki Kim, stayed calm at the back.

Korean import, Kim was a late withdrawal from the City squad after suffering shoulder and back injuries in a car accident.

A fine lay-off from Pelosi to Veart provided the former Sheffield United forward with a shooting chance, but Veart smacked a piledriver over the crossbar.

Ever-alert Sean Babic then latched onto a clearnace to hit a first-touch drive wide of the near post, before Mori accepted another perfect Costanzo cross only to drive straight at Turnbull.

The introduction of former West Adelaide Shark, Alex Duric for Vlado Zoric from the start of the second half proved intimidating for the City players, who recalled the tall striker as the man who scored the winning goal in the historic final derby clash.

Ex-City striker Kris Trajanovski made a brief cameo appearance after replacing impressive Danny Invincible.

PERTH GLORY 2
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory goalkeeper Jason Petkovic gave Socceroo coach Frank Farina a timely reminder that he should still be in his future evaluations following a sensational performance at Perth Oval last Sunday where his remarkable reflexes enabled a mercilessly depleted Glory side to grind their way toward a 2-1 win over ladder leaders Wollongong Wolves.

It may have been just the result coach Bernd Stange was hoping for after last Wednesday's drubbing in New Zealand, but it was one that could have been far different had it not been for the talented Petkovic and the aggressive attitude of the second-string players who were keen to prove their worth.

The 51st minute sending off of Wollongong striker Esala Masi certainly didn't help the visitor's cause either.

Kasey Wehrman, Hamilton Thorp, Troy Halpin and Con Boutisianis were all under suspension while Bobby Despotovski, Vinko Buljubasic and Ivan Ergic were out injured.

This meant squad members Dion Valle, James Afkos and John Carbone were brought into the side, while 20-year old local league striker Gary Faria, who was signed on a month's loan from Fremantle City, warmed the bench with another promising youngster Ljubo Milicevic and goalkeeper Tony Franken.

"We set our game plan around counter-attacks which is not the style I usually like to play, especially at home, but I was left with no option because of having so many key players out of the side," said Glory coach Bernd Stange.

Jason Petkovic: Match winner.

Stange believes the result was the fair one but Wolves coach Nick Theodorakopoulos was not of the same opinion. "With all due respect to my counterpart and I do respect him, I think statistically we were far superior than Glory," said Theodorakopoulos.

"Our chances completely outnumbered Glory's but to their credit they got a goal against the run of play and went on with it."

The Wolves kicked off and immediately showed the more tenacity on the offensive, Anthony Surjan came close to the initial breakthrough after just eight minutes only to be denied by the fingertips of Petkovic.

David Cervinski had two opportunities after 20 minutes but Petkovic and Carbone on the goal line again kept the visitors scoreless.

Moments later, Alistair Edwards presented Peter Buljan with a chance to strike at the other end, but two Wolves defenders intercepted the former Canberra Cosmos forward on the face of the box. Buljan, who was making his first full appearance, made amends with a piece of magic in the 34th minute when he drilled the ball past Les Pogliacomi from the same location.

"It was good to get 90 minutes under my belt after being out of the action for so long and to get a goal was an bonus;" said Buljan.

Scott Chipperfield had a double chance to level the score a minute further on but again found Petkovic imperious.

Wollongong were reduced to 10 men in the 51st minute after Masi chopped Scott Miller down for a second yellow card offence.

Ten minutes on, Miller came close to getting on the scoresheet when he met an Edwards centre with a diving header that soared centimetres past Pogliacomi's left-hand upright.

A minute later Petkovic was again preserving Glory's slender lead by blocking a low strike from Stuart Young after Perth defender Valle put his side under pressure with an errant pass.

Edwards eventually gave Glory breathing space in the 63rd minute with an accurate diving header to a Rob Trajkovski cross which understandably brought a roar of relief from the 9,657 crowd.

The Wolves managed to pull a goal back four minutes from time when Chipperfield beat Petkovic to a ball on the face of the box and in fact could have snatched a point a minute into stoppage time had it not been for the extraordinary reflexes of the Socceroo custodian to deny both Chipperfield and Young in close-range one-on-one duals.

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR

ROUND 19

Canberra v Gippsland Falcons
3-B. Hamilton (CC)
2-B. MacNilol (GF)
1-A. Roberts (CC)

Carlton v Sydney Olympic
3-S. Baillie (SO)
2-L. Lapsansky (C)
1-P. Cardozo (SO)

Adelaide City v Marconi
3-A. Costanzo (AC)
2-C. Veart (AC)
1-S. Babic (MS)

South Melbourne v Newcastle
3-C. Blatsis (SM)
2-J. Buonavoglia (NB)
1-M. Curcija (SM)

Parramatta v Northern Spirit
3-W. Ardone (PP)
2-D. Seal (NS)
1-M. Sterjovski (PP)

Brisbane Strikers v Auckland
3-N. Meredith (BS)
2-S. McLaren (BS)
1-L. Osman (AK)

Sydney United v Melbourne Knights
3-B. Hughes (SW)
2-A. Cervinski (MK)
1-E. Bosnar (SU)

Perth Glory v Wollongong Wolves
3-J. Petkovic (PG)
2-G. Naven (PG)
1-M. Horsley (WW)

PROGRESSIVE POINTS
AFTER ROUND 19

Pablo Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	19
Andy Harper	(Newcastle Breakers)	19
David Cervinski	(Wollongong Wolves)	18
Angelo Costanzo	(Adelaide City Force)	16
Mehmed Durakovic	(Gippsland Falcons)	16
Lubo Lapsansky	(Carlton SC)	15
Andrew Crews	(Parramatta Power)	14
Con Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	14
Gabriel Mendez	(Sydney Olympic)	14
Michael Curcija	(South Melbourne)	13
John Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	12
Gareth Naven	(Perth Glory)	11

TURN TO PAGE 32 FOR MATCH STATISTICS

NSW SUPER LEAGUE

— ROUND 4 —

DEMONS DEVOUR PANTHERS

Blacktown City Demons 5
Penrith Panthers 0

By Don O'Regan

In a comprehensive and sustained all round display, Blacktown City Demons demolished their local rivals Penrith Panthers 5-0 in the round four NSW Super league fixture at the Gabbie stadium last Saturday evening.

With the demons' flank men Damien Brown and Naoki Imaya firing on all cylinders, the Panthers' defence never had a moments peace throughout the 90 minutes and for the newly promoted Penrith it was a baptism of fire.

Their coach, the affable Stan Ackerley, a former player and coach of Blacktown when they were known as Toongabbie, was philosophical after the contest, admitting that their first season in the Super League wasn't going to be easy and that they were looking for a mid-table position to consolidate for next year.

It would have been difficult for any team to match it with the Demons on this display, such was their commitment in every area of the field, always having at least two men free to support the ball carrier. The die was cast in only the seventh minute when the ever-alert Damien Brown pounced on an under hit-back-pass from Chris Ackerley to his keeper Luke Martin.

Brown read the play and intercepted the ball inside the area, dodged to the left and nonchalantly steered the ball into the net.

Nine minutes later and City doubled their lead with an early candidate for 'goal of the season.'

Paul Dee, who just shaded Imaya and Peter Sermanni for the man of the match award, itself a difficult judgment given the high calibre display by all the Blacktown players, picked up a clearance from his defence just outside his own goal area and, by using short, sharp one-two pass with Chris Bradley, transferred the ball to the other end of the field.

Damien Brown: Two goal hero.

Receiving the final pass back from Bradley, Dee whipped his low cross into the middle where Mark Hagger withstood the attention of two Penrith defenders to side-foot the ball home for his first goal of the season.

But for Martin's fine positioning during the game, most notably to prevent Imaya (twice) and Damon Langan from scoring, plus a myriad of near misses from the rampant Demons' pack, the score would have been much greater.

As it was, City had to wait until the 80th minute before increasing their lead. Star striker Jason Bennett, back in the squad after missing the previous week's game with bruised ribs, came off the bench to replace Hagger and his bullet header from a Brown cross was too powerful for Martin to hold, going through his hands before hitting the back of the net.

Two minutes into time added on and number four was registered for the stylish Blacktown. Imaya's persistence down the right, beating off three forceful challenges, eventually getting the ball to Bennett whose shot was palmed down only for the well positioned Brown to knock the ball over the line.

One minute later and the rout was completed by another substitute, Adam Kwaspik, one of the stars of last season's U/16 championship winning Blacktown youth team.

He had come on to replace the injured Paul Richardson in the 81st minute and following a long clearance from Demons' keeper Fernando Greco, found himself in space behind the Penrith defence whereby he ran free into the area and thumped the ball past the stranded Martin.

This superlative performance by the defending champions Blacktown should serve as a warning to their rivals that they are not going to give up their title without a fight.

In this game, the performance of the referee, Mr Jonathan Streeter, was exemplary. He maintained a tight control of the proceedings at all times and his judicious use of the advantage was an example to all.

SCORERS

Cant Marr 5 (C. Foridis 1, 70, J. Ferraro 41, J. Nikas 75, Z. Ilic 93)
Bonnyrigg WE 2 (B. Green 45, J. Ghisso 88)

Macarthur 1 (C. Bishop 16)
Leichhardt 1 (S. Karavatakis 43)

Blacktown 5 (D. Brown 7, 92, M. Haggar 16, J. Bennett 80, A. Kwasnik 93)
Penrith 0

Manly 1 (R. Smithies 90)
C. Coast 3 (P. Preston 54, N. Byrn 77, P. Roberts 88)

Sutherland 0
Bankstown 4 (S. Talevski 4, N, Kodmani 22, G. Issa 28, Z. Younan 93)

Fairfield 2 (M. Borg 32 + 61)
Easts 0

RESULTS

	1st	U/21	U/18
Macarthur v Leichhardt	1-1	2-1	0-0
Blacktown v Penrith	5-0	0-3	1-0
Manly-Warr v Cen. Coast	1-3	1-2	2-3
Sutherland v Bankstown	0-4	1-0	0-0
Fairfield v Easts	2-0	2-2	3-0
Parramatta v St George	0-2	0-3	7-0
Cant-Marr. v Bonnyrigg	5-2	3-1	1-1

SAINTS ON FIRE

Parramatta Eagles 0
St George Saints 2

By Julian Murphy

Parramatta and St George both arrived at Melita Stadium hoping to continue their solid starts of the 2000 Super League season.

It was to be St George's night however, with a confident Saints side over running Parramatta in the second half to notch a 2-0 victory.

St George received a louder cheer than the home side when they ran on the field. It was the Saints who had the better of the opening few minutes of play.

After Parramatta's Adam Anderson had a header palmed wide by an advancing Stacy Algodellis in the 12th minute, the first half was an even affair. Despite both teams pushing forward from the field, neither side really had a clear shot on goal in the first 45 minutes.

Most attacks weren't breaking into the penalty area as both defences performed admirably. Michael Kladis was particularly composed at the back and he and Mark Brennan were also providing much of the Saints attacking impetus.

Dangerous Parramatta striker Nicolce Joseski was kept reasonably quiet although he did head over the bar, when in space, in the 36th minute.

St George came out purposefully in the second half and gradually the Eagles seemed to fall apart. The Saints should have gone ahead in the 48th minute but Elias Augerinos somehow missed an open goal from just a few metres out.

Fortunately the mistake did not prove to be costly as St George began to dominate the game.

Under sustained Saints pressure, Parramatta began to misdirect passes and lose shape in defence. Just as the home crowd began to vent their frustration Kim Bakis scored a magnificent solo goal for the visitors.

After collecting the ball well out from goal, the pacy Bakis carved his way through a feeble Eagles defence and then fired past keeper Jason Holmes. The goal came in the 71st minute and was Bakis' fourth for the season.

Parramatta's intensity level dropped after the goal and they allowed St George in for another 13 minutes later. Nick Boliantis hit in a cross from the right that should have easily been cleared. A horrible defensive blunder presented fellow Saints substitute, Archie Markopolous, with the ball which he gleefully blasted home.

The defeat was Parramatta's first of the season and they will want to turn things around for the visit to Bonnyrigg next weekend.

The St George coach, John Sentas, was naturally happy with the win. "It's always good to get an away win. We played well in the second half even though we missed a couple of chances. Michael Kladis was excellent tonight, I've always belived he is a NSL sweeper."

The victory was St George's third from four starts and they look comfortable in the top division. Sentas isn't surprised, "It's a very good squad of players and they can definitely play a bit."

TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	PTS
Leichhardt Tigers	4	3	1	0	12	6	6	10
Central Coast Coastlies	4	3	1	0	9	3	6	10
St George Saints	4	3	0	1	8	2	6	9
Canterbury Marrickville	4	3	0	1	11	8	3	9
Bankstown City Lions	4	2	2	0	6	1	5	8
Blacktown City Demons	4	2	1	1	7	2	5	7
Sutherland Shire	4	2	0	2	6	11	-5	6
Parramatta Eagles	4	1	2	1	7	4	3	5
Macarthur Rams	4	1	2	1	4	3	1	5
Fairfield Bulls	4	1	0	3	5	8	-3	3
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	4	1	0	3	5	10	-5	3
Manly Warringah Dolphins	4	0	2	2	4	8	-4	2
Penrith Panthers	4	0	1	3	2	14	-12	1
Eastern Suburbs	4	0	0	4	1	7	-6	0

NSW SOCCER FEDERATION

Super League

Kick-off times – 7.00pm (1st Grade), 5.00pm (U21s), 3.00pm (U18s) unless otherwise stated

Saturday 5 February 2000

Leichhardt Tigers v Eastern Suburbs
Lambert Park

St George v Blacktown City
St George Stadium

Bonnyrigg v Parramatta Eagles
Serbian Centre

Macarthur Rams v Canterbury Marrickville
Lynwood Park

Penrith Panthers v Central Coast
Andrews Road Field

Manly Warringah v Sutherland Sharks
Cromer Park: 6.00pm (1st grade, 4.00pm U21s)

Bankstown City v Fairfield
Jensen Park: 5.00pm (U18s)

Sunday 6 February 2000

Bankstown City v Fairfield
Jensen Park: 6.00pm (1st grade), 4.00pm (U21s)

Manly Warringah v Sutherland Sharks
Cromer Park: 5.00pm (U18s)

Catch all the latest news on football in NSW in *Super Soccer* — OUT 3 February!

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It's Mine: David Seal can only watch on as Dean Anastasiadis takes the mark.

Andrew Marth clears past Newcastle's John Buonavoglia.

Paul Trimboli holds off Sebastian Sinozic

AUSTRALIAN SOC

Flying High: Buddy Farah and Stu McLaren hit the heights.

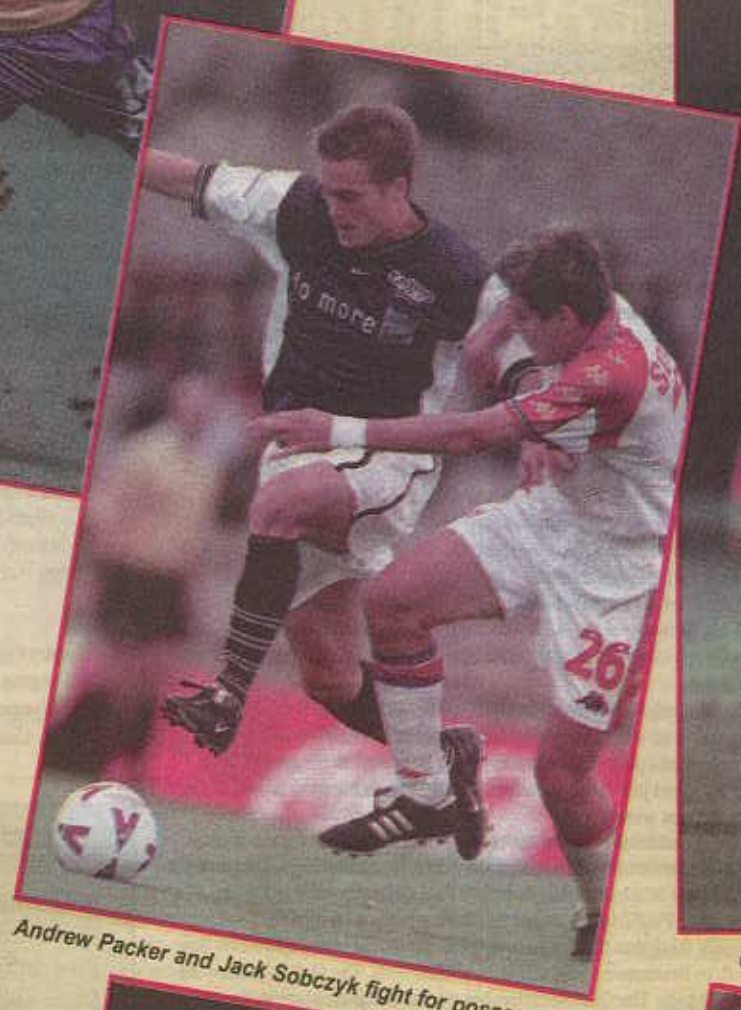
I'll get you: Fausto De Amicis chases down Matt Horsley.

Sydney Olympic's Pablo Cardozo tangle

NSL MO

Magic Momen

Perth's Gareth Naven disposes Parramatta's John Angelucci.



Andrew Packer and Jack Sobczyk fight for possession.

Over the top: Alex Duric hurdles Brisbane's Matthew Bell.

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with South Melbourne's Con Blatsis.

Me First!: Gabriel ('Chi Chi') Mendez and Aurelio Vidmar discuss priorities.

Ransford Banini and Canberra's David Arranz dust it up.

NTAGE

ts in January

National Youth League 1999/2000

NORTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 17)

FRIDAY 28 JANUARY 2000
A.C.T.A.S. .....2 ...A.I.S. 1
(Clark 31, 46) (Johnson 45)

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 2000
Sydney United Colts .....0 ...Marconi Stallions 3
(Severino 5, Last 12, Di Gia 86)

Wollongong Wolves Colts ..0 ...Wollongong Wolves 4
(Dimitrievski 10, Aldridge 25, OíGrady 27, Dimech 41)

Q.A.S. .....4 ...Northern Spirit Colts 0
(Webber 3, Drake 46, 89, Messina 71)

Parramatta Power .....1 ...Northern Spirit 1
(Townsend 89) (Snyder 15)

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 2000
Marconi Stallions Colts ....2 ...Sydney Olympic 3
(Sandoval 71, Brosque 85) (Macallister 45, Carle 80, Miot 82í

Sydney United .....2 ..N.S.W.I.S. 1
(Deak 50, Urosevski 80) (Hartge 86)

Newcastle Breakers Colts v Newcastle Breakers
(To be played on Wednesday 2 February 2000
at Breakers Stadium 5.15pm)

Bye - Sydney Olympic Academy

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	Bye	L	F	A	Pts
Parramatta Power	**18**	**13**	**3**	**1**	**2**	**49**	**15**	**42**
Sydney Olympic	18	12	3	1	3	49	23	39
Q.A.S.	18	12	1	1	5	53	26	37
Northern Spirit	17	11	3	1	3	52	19	36
Marconi Stallions	16	10	0	1	6	34	23	30
A.I.S.	16	9	2	1	5	53	22	29
Newcastle Breakers	16	9	1	1	5	29	18	28
Wollongong Wolve	18	8	2	1	8	27	28	26
Sydney United	16	8	1	1	7	25	31	25
A.C.T.A.S.	18	6	6	1	6	26	37	24
Sydney Olympic Academy	17	7	1	2	9	35	55	22
Newcastle Breakers Colts	18	6	2		10	28	35	20
N.S.W.I.S.	16	5	3	2	8	27	23	18
Northern Spirit Colts	18	4	3		11	18	44	15
Marconi Stallions Colts	18	3	4	1	11	25	49	13
Sydney United Colts	17	2	3	2	12	15	42	9
Wollongong Wolves Colts	15	0	2	1	13	8	63	2

By Theo Katsaros

The A.I.S. suffered their third defeat on the trot when they were beaten 2-1 by the A.C.T.A.S. at Bruce Stadium. The new scholarship holders at the A.I.S. have found it difficult to adjust but I'm sure that once the lads have settled in to their new surroundings they will show what they are capable of.

Andrew Clark put the A.C.T.A.S. into the lead in the 31st minute before Mitchell Johnson levelled the ledger on the stroke of half-time. However, a minute after the break, Clark scored his second to give the Academy a fine win over their local rivals.

The Marconi Stallions continued their fine form of late in defeating the Sydney United Colts 3-0. The Stallions made the short trip to the Sydney United Sports Centre and continued their goal-scoring spree. The victors line-up included Italian import Pierluigi Di Gia who has been sidelined with a knee injury for several months.

The Stallions led after five minutes when Daniel Severino found the net. Grant Last, formerly of the A.I.S., doubled the lead after 12 minutes. The match was sewn up four minutes from time when Di Gia scored his first goal of the season.

In Wollongong, the Wollongong Wolves beat their Colts 4-0. All goals were scored in an entertaining first half of football. The Wolves have steadily climbed up the league ladder after a poor start to the season. The Wolves managed just 20 goals in their first 16 games but have scored seven times in the past week.

Steven Dimetrievski opened the scoring after 10 minutes for the Wolves. Daniel Aldridge, who has not scored since mid-November, broke his drought when he netted in the 25th minute before Paul O'Grady made it 3-0 two minutes later. Paul Dimech ended the scoring in the 41st minute.

The only thing that the Northern Spirit Colts would have enjoyed on their trip north to Brisbane was the view out of their 747. The Q.A.S. handed the Spirit a 4-0 loss. The Queenslanders have cemented their place in the top four and look to be on their way to the finals in May.

Adam Webber scored after just three minutes to start the ball rolling. Lawrence Drake found the net twice to increase his tally for the season to eight. His double in the second half a single to Christopher Messina sealed the Spirits fate.

In the battle between first and third, the Parramatta Power and the Northern Spirit battled out a 1-1 draw. The match played as a curtain-raiser at Parramatta Stadium looked to be going the way of the Spirit but a late equaliser salvaged a point for the Power.

The Spirit scored after a quarter of an hour courtesy of an Adam Snyder goal and held on to the lead until Danny Townsend managed to find the net a minute or so from time.

Another team that has hit a rough patch of late is Sydney Olympic. The former pace setters have lost their past three encounters but overcame a spirited Marconi Stallions Colts outfit 3-2.

Dylan Macallister, Nick Carle and Lee Miot scored singles for Olympic whilst Alex Brosque and Rod Sandoval replied for the Stallions.

Sydney United hosted the N.S.W.I.S. and took all three points courtesy of a 2-1 win. Two second half goals to Ante Deak and Dean Urosevski were enough to hold out the Institute. Gavin Hartge scored a late goal to give the visitors a chance but it was to no avail.

ROUND 20

SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2000
Northern Spirit v Newcastle Breakers Colts (Christie Park - 4.30pm)
Northern Spirit Colts v Sydney United (Christie Park - 6.30pm)
Marconi Stallions Colts v A.I.S. (Marconi Stadium - 4.00pm)
Wollongong Wolves Colts v Marconi Stallions (Brandon Park No. 2 - 8.15pm)

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY 200
Sydney Olympic v N.S.W.I.S. (Belmore Sports Ground - 4.00pm)
Wollongong Wolves v Newcastle Breakers (Brandon Park - 4.00pm)
Sydney Olympic Academy v Parramatta Power (Wentworth Park - 4.00pm)
Sydney United Colts v Q.A.S.(Played on Sunday 21 November 1999)
Bye - A.C.T.A.S.

LEADING SCORERS

Russell Miner	**Q.A.S.**	**14**
Elias Demourtzidis	A.I.S.	11
Ryan Griffiths	Northern Spirit	11
Daniel Kukucka	Parramatta Power	10
Grant Last	Marconi Stallions (A.I.S.)	9
Allan Lo Proto	Sydney United	9
Anthony Sarmonikas	Sydney Olympic Academy	9

SOUTHERN DIVISION (ROUND 11)

WEDNESDAY 26 JANUARY 2000
Fawkner Blues .....1 ...Gippsland Falcons 1
(Carmen Maio) (Ross Duckworth)

SATURDAY 29 JANUARY 2000
Preston Lions .....0 ...Melb Knights Academy 3
(Hrvoje Matkovic, Ivan Mioc, Andre Mayer)

South Dandenong .....1 ...Carlton 1
(Christian Barra) (Angelo Motsiopoulos)

Albury Wodonga .....2 ...Bulleen Inter 1
(David Martin, Paul Bruniec) (Adam Curcija)

SUNDAY 30 JANUARY 2000
South Melbourne .....2 ...VIS 1
(Anthony Magnacca 2) (Juan Sastre)

Melbourne Knights v Bye

LEAGUE LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Carlton	**11**	**10**	**1**	**0**	**45**	**6**	**31**
VIS	11	8	0	3	31	9	24
Bulleen Inter Kings	11	7	1	3	30	20	22
Melbourne Knights	11	5	2	4	34	24	17
South Melbourne	10	5	0	5	26	12	15
Gippsland Falcons	10	4	3	3	17	21	15
South Dandenong	11	4	3	4	15	20	15
Fawkner Blues	11	3	3	5	12	24	12
Albury Wodonga	11	2	2	7	16	37	8
Melbourne Knights Academy	9	2	0	7	7	16	6
Preston Lions	12	1	1	10	11	55	4

ROUND 13

WEDNESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2000
Fawkner Blues v Melbourne Knights Academy, (CB Smith Reserve, 6.30 pm)

SATURDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2000
South Dandenong v Albury Wodonga, (George Andrews Res, 4 pm)
Gippsland Falcons v South Melbourne, (Falcons Stadium, 4 pm)

SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2000
Melbourne Knights v Bulleen Inter, (Knights Stadium, 3.30 pm)

MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2000
Carlton v VIS, (Anderson Park, 7.30 pm)
Preston Lions v Bye

By Roy Hay

South Melbourne made a stunning comeback to defeat the Victorian Institute of Sport at Bob Jane Stadium 2-1 on Sunday night. The VIS was in command for long spells after taking the lead in the fifth minute.

David Terek's free kick was met at the near post by Juan Sastre who outjumped everyone to head home. South had Anthony Magnacca and Adrian Cuzzupe back after their Brazilian adventure and they had a battle against Sastre, Terek, Denis Vucinic and Simon Storey in the middle of the field. Tass Psonis came close for South Melbourne after a good run on the right flank, while 14-year-old Spase Dilevski put a header just wide from a cross by Evan Papadopoulos of the VIS. There were goalmouth scrambles at both ends but it was in the last 10 minutes before Magnacca broke away and was brought down by Jason Dimozantos inside the penalty area. Magnacca took the kick himself and scored, then he produced a brilliant solo run through a somewhat static defence to score the winner in 84 minutes.

Carlton dropped its first point for the season when it was held to a 1-1 draw by South Dandenong. Christian Barra scored for South Dandenong after 35 minutes and a real upset was looming until the 77th minute when Carlton striker Angelo Motsiopoulos equalised. It was a tough battle throughout and South Dandenong had a player sent off but held on to show that it can match it with the top teams on its day.

Fawkner also recorded a 1-1 draw last Wednesday at home to Gippsland Falcons. Fawkner had to bring on its substitutes early in the game and reserve keeper Carmen Maio had to play outfield. He got on the end of a cross to score with a header which shocked the Falcons. In heavy rain the match turned into a slog and Ross Duckworth managed to equalise for the Falcons. The Falcons welcomed back Martin Lorenzo after a long-term injury, but missed the driving force of Ben Cassar.

Melbourne Knights Academy downed Preston Lions by 3-0 at Connor Reserve. The Academy got a flying start with a goal by Hrvoje Matkovic after only three minutes and Ivan Mioc made it two in 22 minutes. Andre Majer scored again just before the interval. At times, the game almost got out of control and Preston received three red cards.

Albury Wodonga beat Bulleen Inter 2-1. Though Bulleen was missing the spine of its team as four key players made the transition to the seniors, it began by putting heavy pressure on the home defence. Michael Binney raised the siege with a run down the left and he was upended in the penalty box. David Martin put the Warriors in front from the spot. After missing some good chances Albury came under pressure in the latter stages of the first half. Keeper Sam Chambers was the home hero as he continued to defy Bulleen in the second half, but in 55 minutes a mix-up in the defence let Adam Curcija in for the equaliser. Paul Brunec scored what proved to be the winner for Albury in the 72nd minute.

LEADING SCORERS

Anthony Pelikan	**Melbourne Knights**	**12**
Andrew Mashoian	South Melbourne	9
Angelo Motsiopoulos	Carlton	9
David Martin	Albury Wodonga	8
Ace Stojcevski	Carlton	7
Xhezair Sulimani	Bulleen	6
Deniz Ekici	Carlton	6
Naum Sekulovski	VIS	6

JUNIOR SOCCER

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AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLBOYS

Australian Schoolboys Fiji Tour

Pictorial Special

Next week in ABSW

DON'T MISS IT!

SOCCER WOMAN

By Janene Mar

DREAM RUN FOR SMALL

Brought in to make her Matildas debut for the Tour to China in October and now on a full AIS Scholarship with eight months to go before the Olympic Games. So just who is Danielle Small and where did she appear from?

Small is perhaps unknown to many, although the name may sound familiar. The 20-year-old from Northern NSW has enjoyed a dream run over the last 16 months, despite being out of the country. Small is one who has managed to work her way to the top from her adopted base in the USA, making the most of the opportunities granted to her, and proof that the door is closed to no-one.

Midfielder Small was first selected for the Australian U19 Team's Tour to Holland in October 1998 by the then National Youth Coach Chris Tanzey. This was followed up in August 1999 with the Australian U21 Team and participation in the prestigious Nordic Cup in Iceland.

Youth Team honours is one thing. Matildas selection something quite different again. Yet Small's performances warranted her a place in Tanzey's mind for possible higher planes. The following month, Tanzey was suddenly in a position to put his plans to the test, when appointed as National Coach. An unexpected invitation to tour China provided him with the opportunity, and Small was one of three 'outside' players brought in to debut for the Matildas.

The call-up came as a complete surprise to Small, happily going about her business in the US college system with San Diego State University, but an opportunity she was not about to let slip by. She felt nervous coming in from even further outside than anyone else.

"My selection was totally unexpected," said Small. "It's very different playing Youth to playing in the full team against China. I was very nervous but at the same time excited. I knew a few of the others, but they'd been together playing and training, and I was just coming in. But once I got there, everyone helped me settle in. I loved that trip."

Small was not only in the touring team, but then was selected in the starting 11 for the very first match against the number two team in the world. She was named one of the Matildas' best on field and gained another start in match two.

"To start was an even bigger surprise. But I wasn't nervous because it was so unexpected. With the huge crowd and the atmosphere, I just couldn't be nervous, the excitement took over."

China was not to be Small's one-hit wonder. Coach Tanzey then offered her an AIS Scholarship as soon as her college commitments were over for the season in December 1999. Small naturally had no hesitation, and arrived in Canberra on Boxing Day after just a couple of days with family.

"I didn't really take Chris seriously at first," recalls Small on receiving the offer from Tanzey. "I thought he might want me in Australia to see me play a bit more, but I never thought it would be a Scholarship. I was just really excited. To have this chance of maybe playing in the Olympics, the decision was made for me (to return to Australia). My college coach was really understanding.

"It's great, having been here a while now and training," she added. "The girls are all really nice and everyone's helped me get settled. Chris is good to play for and keeps us on our toes."

The Small family had seen their daughter only a couple of times since she first took off to America, but were able to share in her success at home with last month's staging of the Australia Cup.

Small played in all three matches, including two starts, and retained an AIS Scholarship in the 21 January selections.

"I always had the ambition to hopefully be selected for Australia - I always had that goal. Now finally that it's happening, it's like WOW. I just want to keep playing and stay there as long as I can."

Homesickness was the teenager's greatest barrier when she first ventured to the USA. Based deep in the heart of the South's 'bible belt', there was also a significant culture shock in lifestyle. But the youngster was soon to grow to love her new situation, to the point where she did not want to return home after one semester as originally planned.

"Once I got over the initial homesickness and stopped begging mum and dad to get me back home, I loved it. I still keep in touch with a lot of friends from there."

Small started at Phillips University in Oklahoma in August 1997 and spent a year playing as a striker. Forced to make a move upon the university's bankruptcy, Small requested a transfer to the University of Mobile, Alabama, also located in the US deep south. Mobile was chosen by Small because of its number one national ranking in Division Two and she settled in as a sweeper.

Danielle Small: Tangles with the Czech Republic's Paulina Scansa in the Australia Cup. Australia won the match 3-0.

Small soon hankered to compete in Division One and in 1999 asked for a transfer to San Diego State University in California, a top 20 college. Again playing sweeper, Small was soon rewarded with team captaincy, one of the side's three captains.

"The standard is just great, there are just so many great players, it's unbelievable. Division One has 200 teams, and everyone in the top 50 are all really good. Every game is hard, it's a great comp to be in because it's so competitive."

From the other side of the world, Small kept up to date with soccer happenings at home through her parents. Spending the 1999 summer break in America, she also had the opportunity to closely follow the World Cup, albeit on television. During this time she played for Mississippi in semi-pro, which provides competition during the college break complete with accommodation, board and the opportunity to 'work' at coaching clinics. Then it was off to Iceland to join her Aussie teammates for the Nordic Cup.

Small hopes to return to San Diego one day, a place she describes as a lot similar to Australia. She plans to complete her degree in Sports Medicine there, the college happy for her to pick up where she left off.

At age14, she made her first State Junior Team in 1993, progressed to State Youth in 1995, and broke through into Seniors in 1996 after recovering from ankle reconstruction surgery. She also made selection for the Australian Junior Squad in 1995 although this was a year when they did not compete. In 1996 she toured Europe with the Australian Schoolgirls Team.

Born in Sydney's Cronulla, the Small family moved north to the Newcastle region when Danielle was aged four. Today the family still resides in Wangi Wangi, north of Morrisset.

After watching her brother play, Small decided she might also enjoy playing soccer. Starting at age nine, she instantly loved soccer, and soon gave up netball. Small remained toughing it out in boys' competitions until age 14 when the ITC program was first established. Despite some boys giving her a hard time, including an incident when they threw rubbish at her, Small was determined to stay. The whole experience has held her in good stead and made her a better player.

"Some boys were good, but others were pretty abusive. But I enjoyed it too much to look elsewhere. The boys were more physical and better players, and mentally too, I had a lot more to deal with. Then the ITC came along and that was the place to be if you wanted to play for Australia."

Now settled with the Matildas at the AIS, there is little time to ponder her amazing run. Living on-site at the Halls of Residence, Small soon hopes to return to some area of study, although there is precious little time to tackle anything too demanding at this stage.

"Living here is great - it's easy. We always seem to be at training, so it wouldn't suit me to live off the Institute - we've always got to be here. There are others living here too, so there's always someone to talk to."

Under Tanzey's rigorous schedule, Small didn't find the fitness requirements much of a change from what she'd experienced in the US, rather the number of hours committed to training. So far she's happy with her form.

"I know I have a long way to go, but I'm on the right track, I think. And Chris, Ian and the girls are easy to talk to if there's anything you need. I just want to keep enjoying it and be the best player I can be.

"I was just excited to be asked to come in. I never looked as far as the Olympics (when I was first asked to come here). I was just so excited that Chris had given me this opportunity to be part of the team. I guess the fact I've been given this chance makes me want to work a lot harder and be part of the team in eight months time. He's given me a place - now I want to keep it."

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FAMOUS PHOTOS

Have you had your photo taken with someone famous in soccer? Even if it happened years ago, you can have the photo published in ABSW. Send photos to:

The Editor
Australian and British Soccer Weekly
P.O. Box 155, Marrickville NSW 1475.
Or E-mail the photo in JPEG format to
soccerweekly@hotmail.com.
**All photos will be returned*

STUMP THE EDITOR

QUESTION from:

Hank Van de Baan
Keperra, QLD

In all Dutch international games between 30/4/05 - 8/6/99 which player has scored the most goals for Holland during his playing career?

Although most think it's Johan Cruyff, it is actually Dennis Bergkamp with 36 goals.

QUESTION from:

Jim Cayless
Glen Waverly, NSW

When were the current rules of Soccer actually formed?

The first attempt to unify the game by drawing up a general code of rules was at Cambridge University in 1848. The idea was eventually aborted and it was Cambridge again who started the ball rolling in the battle for a generally accepted code. That was in 1862.

QUESTION from:

P. Symonds
Belmont, WA

The first FA Cup was held in 1871/72. How many clubs took part and how many of those were from NORTH of London?

Great question. Only 15 clubs took part in the first FA Cup. There were two clubs north of London. One was Queen's Park who played one match, ran out of money and went home. The second was a club called Donnington who ended up not taking part at all.

On March 16 1872 at The Oval the FA Cup final was won by Wanderers over Royal Engineers 1-0.

QUESTION from:

Adrian Lipari
Katoomba, NSW

In 1982 Italy won the World Cup. They created history in their group matches and also again after a year that they won the trophy. What are these two pieces of history?

Adrian, Italy became the first team to win the World Cup without actually winning any of their preliminary group matches. They had three draws and went through to the next stage on goal difference.

I believe that the other piece of history is that the Italian team did not win again for over a year after winning the World Cup.

THIS WEEKS

SCOREBOARD

EDITOR	4
ABSW READERS	0

THE RULES

Questions will be answered within two editions of ABSW due to print deadlines. If they are not answered within two editions then I am stumped.

Due to fairness and lack of space please limit your suggestions to ONE question per reader per edition.

Important

Please make all questions as clear as possible. Ambiguous or deliberately misleading questions will not be tolerated.

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WORLD

ITALIAN SERIE A

BOLOGNA 1 PARMA 0

Parma-born Giovanni Bia turned in Kennet Andersson's flick-on in the 48th minute to give Bologna their first victory in this local derby since 1987.

The home side's goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca stretched his run without conceding a goal at the Dall'Ara stadium to 630 minutes.

FIORENTINA 1 REGGINA 0

Argentine Gabriel Batistuta's 50th minute goal halted Fiorentina's miserable run of form.

The home side were often outplayed by the visitors for whom Roberto Baronio hit the post.

INTER MILAN 2 ROMA 1

Inter leapfrogged Roma into third spot thanks to an inspired first-half display from Roberto Baggio.

The former Italy playmaker first set up Christian Vieri for his side's eighth minute opener.

Then, nine minutes after Brazilian Aldair had headed Roma level, Baggio struck a superb 42nd minute winner.

JUVENTUS 1 CAGLIARI 1

Relegation-threatened Cagliari followed up their midweek elimination of Roma from the Italian Cup with a precious draw at the Delle Alpi.

Filippo Inzaghi gave Juve a first minute lead but Giovanni Sulcis equalised in the 13th minute when he became only the ninth player to beat Dutch goalkeeper Edwin Van Der Sar this season.

Nakata of Roma gets to the ball before Cauet of Inter. Inter won 2-1.

LAZIO 3 BARI 1

Showing the same form that knocked Juventus out of the Italian Cup on Wednesday, Lazio rushed into a two-goal lead with a controversial Sinisa Mihajlovic penalty in the second minute and Marcelo Salas' ninth goal of the season.

Gionatha Spinesi pulled a goal back for Bari in the 42nd but Pavel Nedved's 43rd minute shot put Lazio's title challenge back on track.

PERUGIA 0 AC MILAN 3

Ukrainian Andrei Shevchenko single-handedly secured Milan's third successive away win with a seven-minute hat-trick midway through the second half.

Until then the former Dynamo Kiev striker's poor finishing had threatened to spoil Milan's return to the ground where they clinched the 1998-99 title on the last day of the season.

VENEZIA 2 TORINO 2

Venezia looked like climbing out of the relegation zone for the first time this season as they entered stoppage time with a two-goal lead over Torino, thanks to first-half efforts from Maurizio Ganz, from the penalty spot, and Norwegian Runar Berg.

But Torino pulled off a Houdini-like escape with goals from defender Alessandro Grandoni and Marco Ferrante.

LEECE 2 VERONA 1

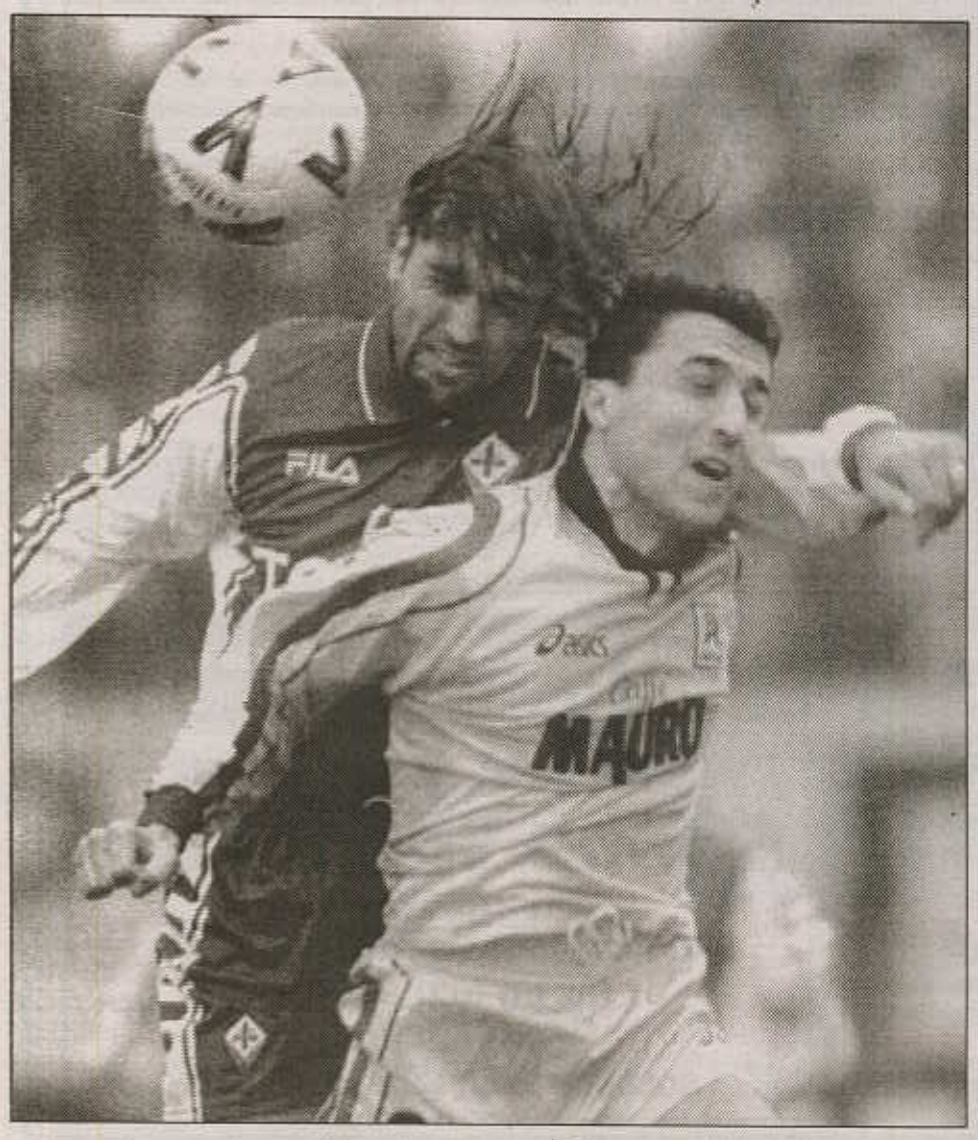
Alessandro Conticchio's 60th minute winner, eight minutes after Cristian Brocchi was dismissed, stretched Lecce's unbeaten league run to seven matches.

Earlier, the visitors had recovered well from Cristiano Lucarelli's sixth minute penalty - the ex-Valencia striker's 11th goal of the season - to equalise through Leonardo Colucci in the 18th.

PIACENZA 0 UDINESE 1

Roberto Muzzi's 10th goal of the season left Piacenza rooted to the bottom of the table and brought Udinese their third successive away league win.

The home side's chances of salvaging a point virtually disappeared with Daniel Delli Carri's dismissal a minute after Muzzi's 56th minute strike.



Batistuta jumps for the ball with Bernini of Reggina. Fiorentina won 1-0.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

When great players of Italian soccer are mentioned, then surely the name Roberto Baggio must be there.

Baggio is still a genius of a player and don't let anyone tell you otherwise. In Inter's recent away victory, 1-2, over Verona, he showed once again his qualities.

Having replaced Javier Zanetti early in the second half, Baggio came on and set up teammate Alvaro Recoba to equalise and then set up by Recoba, he scored the winning goal himself.

In a few days time, February 18th, he turns 33 but is showing no signs of wear and tear.

Prior to the Verona game, Baggio had made it perfectly clear, in the Italian media, that he wasn't injured.

In one of Italy's leading papers, La Repubblica, he even described the people, who may have started the 'injured rumour,' as "cowards."

It is well known that his current coach Marcello Lippi, was the main reason for his departure from Juventus in 1995. Lippi, then in charge of Juve, didn't see eye-to-eye with his star player and captain. Baggio then went to AC Milan for two seasons.

Now re-united at Inter, it seemed that old wounds between the pair may have been re-opened.

Not the case, has been the official line from both parties.

Baggio's track record in Italian soccer needs no introduction; he played for Fiorentina (1985-90), Juventus (1990-95), Milan (1995-97), Bologna (1997/98) and has been at Inter since the start of last season.

His club career was well and truly revived in his magical season at Bologna, where he was his club's leading goal-scorer. This prompted a recall to the Italian national team for the 1998 World Cup in France.

At international level he was the star for Italy in three World Cups. In 1990 in Italy, he was the play-maker who complemented Salvatore Schillaci.

Italy lost in the semi-finals in that World Cup, on a penalty shoot-out, in Naples to Diego Maradona's Argentina. Ironically, Italy's then manager, Azeglio Vicini, made thebiggest selection blunder of the campaign in that game - Baggio was dropped for GianlucaVialli to return after injury.

In 1994, Baggio single-handedly led Italy to the final in Los Angeles against Brazil.

'That missed penalty in the shoot-out, his hamstring injury and a massive falling out with then manager Arrigo Sacchi, stalled his international career for three years.

Under manager Cesare Maldini, Baggio was to return in 1998 - a feat only a few thought was possible. Baggio always said, that he wanted to play for Italy in France and many of his critics simply laughed. Once again, Baggio had proven them incorrect.

The latest, is that Baggio wants to play again for Italy in the European Nations Cup in June, in Belgium and Holland. In the last European Cup he was no where to be seen - Signor Sacchi made sure of that!

People may well laugh at him, but his burning desire to play for Italy again, is the reason he has so far refused a move to the J-League in Japan.

Form on the board and not age, should be the decisive factor when current National team boss, Dino Zoff, selects his final squad later in the year.

Zoff was Italy's goalkeeper and captain, in Spain in 1982, when the 'azzurri' won the World Cup. He was aged 40. Don't write-off Robbie Baggio just yet!

WORLD

ENGLISH FA CUP/PREMIER LEAGUE

FA CUP FIFTH ROUND

ASTON VILLA 3 LEEDS UTD 2

Italian striker Benito Carbone scored a spectacular hat-trick to clinch a dramatic win. Carbone twice scored equalisers after Leeds had dominated.

The Italian then headed the winner in the 69th minute after a brilliant run by midfielder Paul Merson.

Leeds took the lead in the 13th minute with a goal from Ian Harte. Villa equalised in the 32nd minute when Carbone struck home a fierce volley from just inside the box.

Seven minutes later Norwegian Eirik Bakke's spectacular diving header gave Leeds a 2-1 half-time lead.

Carbone then struck a fierce shot from 35 metres into the top left-hand corner in the 59th minute before his third 13 minutes later.

CHELSEA 2 LEICESTER 1

Chelsea went ahead in the 35th minute after a acrobatic shot from Uruguayan Gustavo Poyet.

Liberian striker George Weah effectively finished off the tie in the 48th minute when he struck home a cross from Chris Sutton first time.

Just 12 minutes later Leicester were reduced to 10 men when Steve Walsh was sent off for elbowing Sutton off the ball.

Chelsea captain Dennis Wise was also sent off in injury time for a second bookable offence before Matt Elliott scored a consolation goal for Leicester.

CAMBRIDGE 1 BOLTON 3

Cambridge took the lead in the 29th minute when Trevorn Benjamin scrambled the ball home after Bolton had failed to clear a corner. The second division side held on to their lead at halftime.

But just eight minutes into the second half Bob Taylor equalised for Bolton with a volley into the top corner.

Taylor added a second in the 75th before Eidur Gudjohnsen sealed the issue in the 86th.

COVENTRY 2 CHARLTON 3

The home side made a perfect start when Belgian striker Cedric Roussel scored twice in six minutes in the 15th and 21st minutes.

The Sky Blues deserved their lead after playing excellent football in the early stages.

But Charlton pulled a goal back with a header from John Robinson in the 40th minute. Two minutes into injury time at the end of the half Shaun Newton pounced to score after Coventry 'keeper Magnus Hedman failed to hold an Andy Hunt shot.

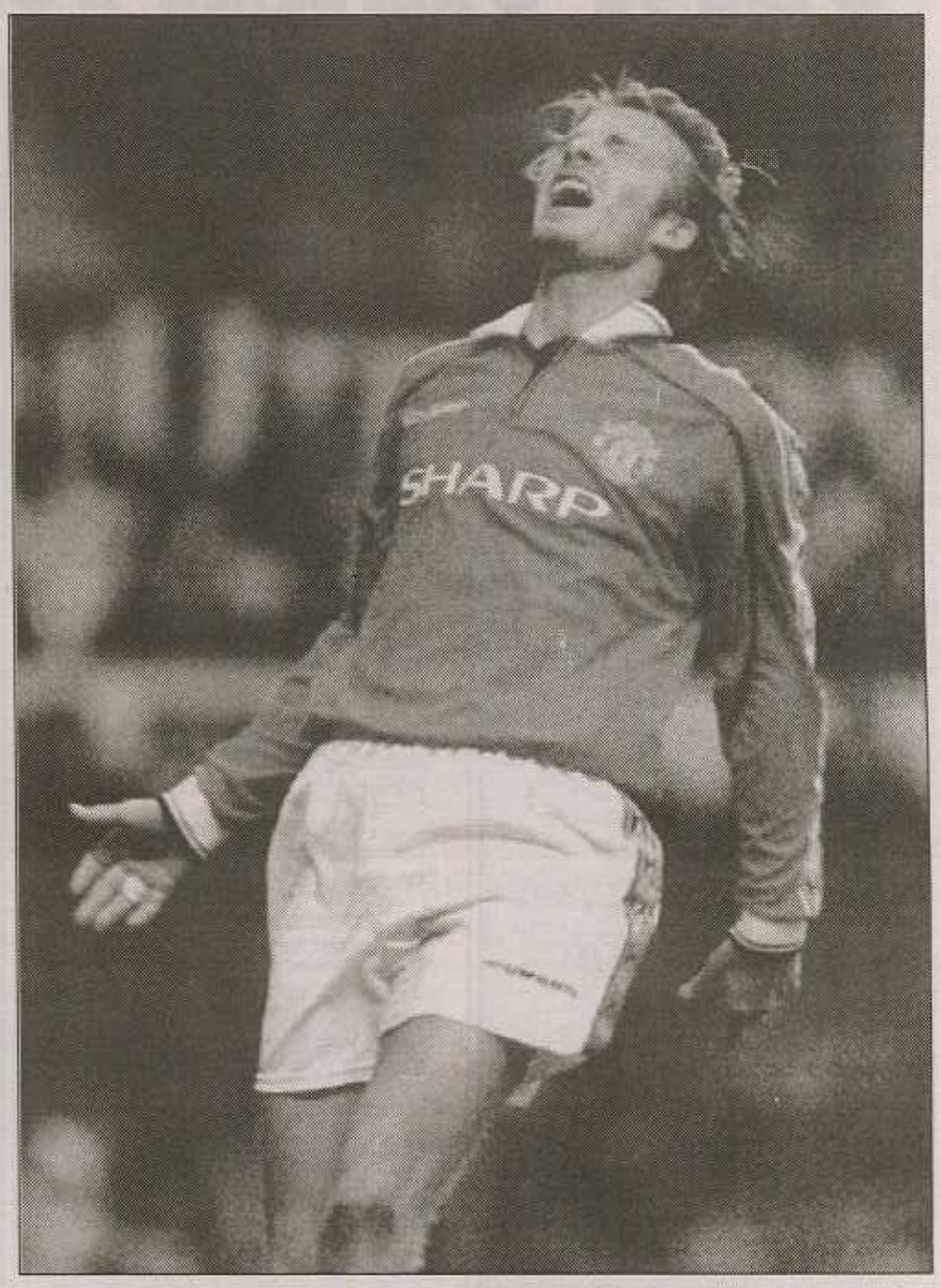
Hunt then struck a late winner two minutes from the end from a narrow angle to pull off the shock win.

EVERTON 2 PRESTON NORTH END 0

The first half was goalless but Preston started well against their more glamorous opponents.

Everton then took control, taking the lead in dramatic style in the 64th minute when David Unsworth struck home a superb free kick from 25 metres.

Joe-Max Moore added a second just before the whistle.



David Beckham screams for delight as his goal secures the Red Devils a 1-0 win against Middlesbrough. With the win, United go back on top of the ladder.

Chelsea's Didier Deschamps gets tangled up with a Leicester player. Chelsea got the better of the main battle winning 2-1 .

FULHAM 1 TRANMERE 2

Tranmere central defender Dave Challinor, who has the longest throw in world soccer, launched another huge effort from the right-hand touchline to set up the opening goal in the ninth minute.

Wayne Allison's glancing header just went in inside the left-hand post.

But nine minutes later Chris Coleman pulled a goal back for Fulham when he pounced at the left-hand post to fire in from close range.

The Tranmere winner came from David Kelly in the 73rd after he slotted home a cross from Andy Parkinson.

GILLINGHAM 3 SHEFF WEDNESDAY 1

Second division Gillingham pulled off the biggest shock of the round to reach the quarter-finals for the first time.

Gillingham, in the last 16 for only the second occasion after eliminating Premier League Bradford City in the previous round, struck twice in two minutes in the second half to turn the tie around..

Wednesday seemed to be in control after taking the lead in the 27th minute when Gerald Sibon latched onto a low cross to score. But in the 70th minute Mark Saunders struck a right-footed shot into the corner to equalise before Andy Thomson's diving header in the 72nd put the home side ahead for the first time. A superb spectacular effort from Nicky Southall with just eight minutes left sealed the upset.

PREMIER LEAGUE

MANCHESTER UNITED 1 MIDDLESBROUGH 0

After a goalless first half, Middlesbrough saw German international wing back Christian Ziege sent off for his second bookable offence in the 65th minute.

United needed 'keeper Mark Bosnich to save a penalty from Brazilian Juninho before David Beckham struck the winner in the 87th minute.

The match put United on top of the table ahead of Leeds United on goal difference.

WORLD

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

GROUP A

Porto (Portugal)
Hertha Berlin (Germany)
Barcelona (Spain)
Sparta Prague (Czech Republic)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Hertha Berlin	1	Barcelona	1
Michalke 33		Luis Enrique 14	
Sparta Prague	0	Porto	2
		Drulovic 77, Jardel 84	

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Porto	1	Hertha Berlin	0
Drulovic 78			
Barcelona	5	Sparta Prague	0
Kluivert 44, 63			
Luis Enrique 45, 76			
Guardiola 59			

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Barcelona v Porto
Hertha Berlin v Sparta Prague

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Porto v Barcelona
Sparta Prague v Hertha Berlin

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Barcelona v Hertha Berlin
Porto v Sparta Prague

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Hertha Berlin v Porto
Sparta Prague v Barcelona

Table

Porto	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	6	1	4
Hertha Berlin	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Sparta Prague	2	0	0	2	0	7	0

GROUP B

Bordeaux (France)
Fiorentina (Italy)
Manchester United (England)
Valencia (Spain)

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23

Fiorentina	2	Manchester Utd	0
Batistuta 25, Balbo 52			
Valencia	3	Bordeaux	0
Farinos 60, Ilie 66, Gonzalez 88			

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8

Bordeaux	0	Fiorentina	0
Manchester Utd	3	Valencia	0
Keane 38, Solskjaer 47			
Scholes 69			

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1

Manchester Utd v Bordeaux
Fiorentina v Valencia

TUESDAY, MARCH 7

Bordeaux v Manchester Utd
Valencia v Fiorentina

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15

Manchester Utd v Fiorentina
Bordeaux v Valencia

TUESDAY, MARCH 21

Fiorentina v Bordeaux
Valencia v Manchester Utd

Table

Fiorentina	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Manchester Utd	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Valencia	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Bordeaux	2	0	1	1	0	3	1

GROUP C

Bayern Munich (Germany)
Dynamo Kiev (Ukraine)
Real Madrid (Spain)
Rosenborg Trondheim (Norway)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Dynamo Kiev	1	Real Madrid	2
Rebrov 85pen		Morientes 17, Raul 48	
Rosenborg	1	Bayern Munich	1
Skammelsrud 47		Jancker 10	

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Bayern Munich	2	Dynamo Kiev	1
Jancker 6, Sergio 80		Rebrov 50	
Real Madrid	3	Rosenborg	1
Raul 17, Savio 85 Carlos 90		Carew 47	

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Real Madrid v Bayern Munich
Dynamo Kiev v Rosenborg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Bayern Munich v Real Madrid
Rosenborg v Dynamo Kiev

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Real Madrid v Dynamo Kiev
Bayern Munich v Rosenborg

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Dynamo Kiev v Bayern Munich
Rosenborg v Real Madrid

Table

Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	5	2	6
Bayern Munich	2	1	1	0	3	2	4
Rosenborg	2	0	1	1	2	4	1
Dynamo Kiev	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

GROUP D

Feyenoord (Netherlands)
Olympique Marseille (France)
Lazio (Italy)
Chelsea (England)

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Marseille	0	Lazio	2
		Stankovic 64, Conceicao 78	
Chelsea	3	Feyenoord	1
Babayaro 45 Tore Flo 67, 86		Julio Cruz 90	

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7

Feyenoord	3	Marseille	0
Cruz 72, 90 Bosvelt 83			
Lazio	0	Chelsea	0

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

Lazio v Feyenoord
Marseille v Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8

Feyenoord v Lazio
Chelsea v Marseille

TUESDAY, MARCH 14

Lazio v Marseille
Feyenoord v Chelsea

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22

Marseille v Feyenoord
Chelsea v Lazio

Table

Chelsea	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Lazio	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Feyenoord	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Marseille	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

FIFA PICKS LONDON

World governing body FIFA has scrapped plans to open its multi-million dollar Hall of Champions in Paris and has decided to locate it in London, FIFA secretary general Michel Zen-Ruffinen said last week.

"Unfortunately all our plans to locate the Hall in Paris have come to nothing," he said.

"We were left with two choices — either Zurich, which is the headquarters of FIFA, or London which is, of course, the capital city of the country that invented soccer.

"The only logical choice was London as there are many more people there and who go there to visit. The British government and English Football Association have given us their absolute and total support for the scheme."

The official said FIFA had looked at six buildings in London and was on the verge of signing a contract with one of them, which he described as having "a perfect location in the very heart of London."

Last year the English Premier League opened their own Hall of Fame in London on the south bank of the River Thames near the Houses of Parliament.

Michel Zen-Ruffinen

But the Hall of Fame's director of football Gary Trowsdale said he welcomed the arrival of FIFA's Hall of Champions.

He said: "We were happy to advise them and help them and we believe that, far from being a counter-attraction, it will be a positive help to us in attracting people to the Hall of Fame which is principally concerned with the English game and Premier League."

Blatters warns breakaway league

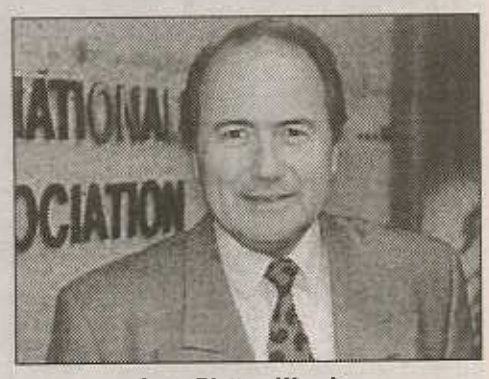
FIFA President Sepp Blatter issued a stiff warning to top European clubs tempted to join a breakaway league last week.

Blatter came to Moscow to unveil his "Goal" project to help soccer in former Soviet republics, but took time to warn clubs against defying FIFA's authority.

"We must protect the national associations and the clubs against any attempts to create various leagues outside of the existing Confederations, outside of our FIFA family," he said.

"Just 10 days ago I had a meeting with (UEFA President) Mr Lennart Johansson and both of us absolutely agreed that these leagues shall not be permitted. Those who do not follow our laws shall be expelled."

Last year, 14 of Europe's top clubs talked of establishing a breakaway Super League, with the help of the Media Partners marketing group, to maximise television and marketing revenues.



Sepp Blatter: Warning.

"We can't allow some clubs just to come in, take the best and go away, because we must look after all our members and not just a few," Blatter said.

"We have over 200 million footballers in the world and only 0.01 per cent of them represent professional football."

QUARTER FINALS

First Leg — April 5
Second Leg — April 19

SEMI-FINALS

First Leg — May 3
Second Leg — May 10

FINAL

Wednesday, May 24
At Stade de France

FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until February 16)

FIFA founded 1904

1	Brazil	69	Estonia	137	St Kitts & Nevis
2	Czech Republic	70	Mali	138=	St Lucia
3	France	71	Honduras	138=	Panama
4	Spain	72	Gabon	140	Tahiti
5	Germany	73	Guatemala	141	Benin
6	Argentina	74	Burkina Faso	142	St Vincent/Gr
7	Norway	75	Bosnia-Herz.	143	Ethiopia
8	Romania	76	Nigeria	144	Maldives
9	Croatia	77	Cuba	145	Solomon Islands
10	Mexico	78	Iraq	146=	Andorra
11	Denmark	79	Senegal	146=	Rwanda
12	England	80	Canada	148	Dominica
13	Yugoslavia	81	Namibia	149=	Antigua & Barbuda
14	Italy	82	Kuwait	149=	Cayman Islands
15	Portugal	83=	Albania	151	San Marino
16	Sweden	83=	Northern Ireland	152	Gambia
17	Paraguay	85	Armenia	153	Sri Lanka
18	Russia	86	Algeria	154	Lesotho
19	Netherlands	87	Togo	155	Dominican Rep.
20	Scotland	88	China PR	156	Laos
21	Slovakia	89=	Indonesia	157	Nepal
22	United States	**89=**	**AUSTRALIA**	158	Yemen
23	Chile	91	Guinea	159	Kyrgyzstan
24	Colombia	92	Oman	160	Mauritania
25	Morocco	93	Moldova	161	British Virgin Is.
26=	Israel	94=	Congo	162	Surinam
26=	Ukraine	94=	El Salvador	163=	Bermuda
28	Tunisia	96	Belarus	163=	Niger
29	Austria	97	Azerbaijan	165	Botswana
30=	Turkey	98	Wales	166	Chad
30=	South Africa	99	Haiti	167	Neth. Antilles
32	Poland	100	New Zealand	168=	Eritrea
33	Belgium	101	Mozambique	168=	Cambodia
34	Greece	102	Vietnam SR	170	Palestine
35	Republic of Ireland	103	Kenya	171	Guyana
36	Zambia	104	Singapore	172	Korea DPR
37	Bulgaria	105	Liberia	173	Guinea-Bissau
38	Egypt	106	India	174	Chinese Taipei
39	Saudi Arabia	107	Qatar	175	C African Rep.
40	Slovenia	108	Uganda	176	Macao
41	Jamaica	109	Syria	177=	Cape Verde Is
42	Peru	110	Venezuela	177=	Tonga
43=	Iran	111	Lebanon	179=	Samoa
43=	Iceland	112	Faroe Islands	179=	Pakistan
43=	Trinidad & Tobago	113	Barbados	181	Philippines
46=	Hungary	114	Malawi	182	Cook Islands
46=	Uruguay	115	Jordan	183	PNG
48	Switzerland	116	Malta	184	Vanuatu
49	Cote d' Ivoire	117	Malaysia	185	Brunei Darussalam
50	Ghana	118	Mauritius	186	Puerto Rico
51	Lithuania	119	Hong Kong	187	Sao Tome e Principe
52	Korea Republic	120	Tajikistan	188	Equatorial Guinea
53	Angola	121	Sierra Leone	189	Bahamas
54	UAE	122	Grenada	190	Belize
55	Uzbekistan	123=	Libya	191	Aruba
56	Finland	123=	Luxembourg	192	Seychelles
57	Cameroon	123=	Kazakhstan	193	Nicaragua
58	Japan	126	Liechtenstein	194	US Virgin Islands
59	Congo DR	127	Myanmar	195	Djibouti
60	Thailand	128=	Tanzania	196	Turks and Caicos Islands
61	Bolivia	128=	Swaziland	197	Somalia
62=	Latvia	130	Turkmenistan	198=	American Samoa
62=	Cyprus	131	Bangladesh	198=	Mongolia
64	Costa Rica	132	Sudan	200=	Guam
65	Ecuador	133	Burundi	200=	Montserrat
66	Georgia	134	Madagascar	202	Anguilla
67	Zimbabwe	135	Fiji		
68	FYR Macedonia	136	Bahrain		

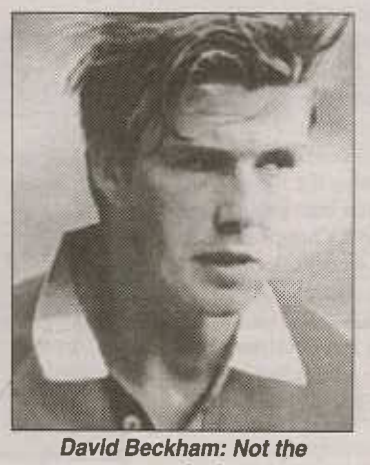
***Note:** Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.*

BECKHAM NOT THE BEST

George Best joined the critics of Manchester United and England's David Beckham last week saying: "I don't think he's a great player — he can't kick with his left foot, he doesn't score many goals, he can't head a ball and he can't tackle. Apart from that he's all right."

Best, recently voted the second best Manchester United player of all time, was speaking in Brussels where he was inducted into FIFA's Hall of Champions along with Brazilians Didi and Zico and Dutchman Marco Van Basten.

His remarks, delivered in a reasonably light-hearted vein, drew nervous laughter from reporters before he continued by saying he was upset to have finished second to Eric Cantona in a recent Internet poll to find the best United player of all time.



David Beckham: Not the greatest.

"Eric Cantona was a great player although his kung fu wasn't very good," he said, referring to the infamous night when Cantona jumped over a barrier wall in a match against Crystal Palace and kicked a fan who had abused him.

"The people who voted for Eric never saw me play... the people voting on the Internet would be too young. But I'm not happy to finish second to Eric Cantona. I dont mind finishing second to Pele but not to Cantona."

Best, who has battled against alchoholism in the past, looked in good shape on the podium but added he was always unhappy that he was born in Belfast because it meant he had to play international football for Northern Ireland and not Brazil.

"I grew up in Belfast dreaming of playing for Brazil, and I always wanted to be a Brazilian. They are my type of people."

Best's induction into the Hall of Champions was his second major honour in 24 hours after a lavish dinner was held in celebration of his career the previous night.

He was voted European Footballer of the Year in 1968, the year he scored a decisive goal for Manchester United in their European Cup final victory over Benfica, and also won English league titles with United in 1965 and 1967.

George Best: Critic.

Best quit United in 1974 after battling to come to terms with being soccer's first showbiz superstar.

He continued playing for another 10 years for clubs in the United States, Ireland, Scotland and in the lower reaches of the English league.

ANTLERS CHASE BEBETO

Japan's Kashima Antlers are chasing veteran Brazilian striker Bebeto for the J.League season which kicks off on March 11.

Having agreed terms with former Brazilian World Cup midfielder Toninho Cerezo to be the new manager, Antlers have now turned their attention to strengthening their contingent of foreign players.

Kashima general manager Zico, Brazil's assistant coach at the 1998 World Cup in France, is hoping to lure 35-year-old Bebeto from Mexican club Toros-Neza.

Antlers won the league championship in 1996 and 1998 but missed out on all three major domestic titles last season. They then released Brazilian pair Mazinho and Ricardo, retaining only playmaker Bismarck.

Bebeto teamed up with Romario to help Brazil win the 1994 World Cup and remained a firm favourite of national coach Mario Zagallo in France, despite being the subject of heavy criticism from Brazilian fans during the run to the final.

Bebeto: Off to Japan?

ROMA APPROVE CASH INJECTION

Italian first division soccer club AS Roma said last week its shareholders had approved a capital increase of three million euros ($4.80 million) ahead of its planned listing on the Milan bourse.

The club said in a statement the shareholders also mandated the board of directors to carry out another capital increase of up to three million euros by July 31.

Roma, which is 99.92 percent owned by club president Francesco Sensi, said the increase will take place through the issue of three million ordinary shares for the nominal value of one euro each.

Shareholders approved the bourse listing plan last December and the club said in October it would seek flotation by spring 2000 to capitalise on the celebrations for the Roman Catholic Holy Year.

Roma are third in the Italian Serie A title race behind Juventus and Lazio, the only Italian club currently listed on the bourse.

Roma, which recently bought Japanese team captain Hidetoshi Nakata, said it plans to increase earnings from merchandising and television rights.

The club said it expects to earn some 120 billion lire from broadcasting rights during the 1999-2000 season.

FIFA WORLD PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Rivaldo
(Brazil & Barcelona)

Barcelona's Brazilian forward Rivaldo was chosen as FIFA's world player of the year for 1999 last week.

The Brazilian came off best in a poll of 140 national team coaches with 91 of the leading trainers putting him at the top of their list.

England and Manchester United midfielder David Beckham and Argentine Gabriel Batistuta were second and third respectively in the poll. Some 18 coaches named Beckham as their top player with five voting for Batistuta.

Two other Manchester United players — strikers Andy Cole and Dwight Yorke — were included in the top 10 players. Last year's winner, France's Zinedine Zidane, finished fourth.

Rivaldo guided Brazil to the Copa America and Barcelona to the Spanish league title and was named European Player of the Year last month.

Rivaldo: Considering his future.

He was also voted world player of the year by readers of World Soccer magazine.

Rivaldo, who received the award at FIFA'a gala in Brussels became the third Brazilian to win the award following Romario in 1994 and Ronaldo in 1996 and 1997.

Beckham's club Manchester United won the European Cup, the Premier League and the F.A. Cup last year as well as the Intercontinental Cup.

Although Batistuta has not won any major honours with Fiorentina since winning the Italian Cup in 1996, he has been outstanding in this season's Champions League scoring a memorable winner for his club against Arsenal at Wembley.

Rivaldo and Beckham enjoyed outstanding years but they both ended the last 12 months in controversy.

Rivaldo fell out with Dutch coach Louis van Gaal and was left out of the Barcelona team in December. Beckham was sent off playing for Manchester United against Mexican club Necaxa during the World Club championship in Brazil earlier last month.

Rivaldo has also denied rumours of a $56 million move to Italian side Lazio but his future at Barcelona is still uncertain.

"I want to stay at Barcelona but when the coach and the president say the sort of things they have been saying recently, I have to consider the future," he said.

"I have to think about what is best for myself, the team and the fans. I would be much happier if they came out straight and said I was staying because that is what I want to do."

The award has been given eight times before. Veteran German libero Lothar Matthaeus won the first award in 1991 with French World Cup midfielder Zinedine Zidane taking the prize last year.

Brazil were named team of the year after remaining number one in the world rankings throughout the year.

Slovenia won an award for being the most improved team of the year while the New Zealand "football 'community" won FIFA's Fair Play prize.

Rivaldo: Champion.

Between January and December last year, Slovenia moved up almost 40 places in the world rankings as well as qualifying for the Euro 2000 finals.

FIFA said: "Winning this title is Slovenia's well deserved reward for a sparkling year with consistently convincing displays in decisive games."

The New Zealanders won praise for their hosting of the FIFA under-17 World Cup in November.

PAST WINNERS

1991 - Lothar Matthaeus (Germany, Inter Milan)
1992 - Marco van Basten (Netherlands, AC Milan)
1993 - Roberto Baggio (Italy, Juventus)
1994 - Romario (Brazil, Barcelona)
1995 - George Weah (Liberia, AC Milan)
1996 - Ronaldo (Brazil, Barcelona)
1997 - Ronaldo (Brazil, Inter Milan)
1998 - Zinedine Zidane (France, Juventus)
1999 - Rivaldo (Brazil, Barcelona)

REAL PLEAS BY McMANAMAN

Steve McManaman is pleading for patience from Real Madrid fans anxious to see the England international back to his best.

McManaman, one of the few players to perform well at the start of the season, has struggled to make an impact since returning from a lengthy absence with a muscle strain.

But the former Liverpool midfielder has promised he would soon return to top form to lead the Real championship challenge.

"I recognise that I'm not playing well at the moment but that's normal when you're just coming back from an injury," McManaman said.

"I have a lot of confidence in myself. I just ask that Real fans have a bit of patience with me. They'll soon see me how I was before the injury.

"We've got four games in two weeks now and that'll help me recover my form."

Steve McManaman: In action for Real Madrid.

Real, remain 11 points off the title pace with two games in hand but McManaman believes they can soon make up ground on leaders Deportivo Coruna.

"If we win our games in hand we'll be within five points of Deportivo. I've always said the league isn't over for us."

KOEMAN DEBUTS WITH VICTORY

Ronald Koeman made his debut as coach of Vitesse Arnhem with a 1-0 victory over Den Bosch in the Dutch first division last week.

Koeman started his job as head coach on January 1 after assisting Louis van Gaal at Barcelona and his side kicked off the first match in the Dutch league after the winter break.

It took Vitesse until the 37th minute to break the deadlock agaisnt lowly Den Bosch with Pierre van Hooijdonk beating the offside trap and scoring his 18th of goal of the season.

Vitesse moved up to fourth spot with 35 points from 19 matches, six points behind league leaders PSV Eindhoven, who have played 18 games.

Ronald Koeman: Winning start.

TRANMERE CREATE HISTORY

Tranmere Rovers stormed into their first major English soccer final last week when they trounced Bolton Wanderers 3-0 in the second leg of the League Cup semi-final.

Two first-half goals by midfielders Nick Henry and Alan Mahon fired Tranmere towards the home win which completed a 4-0 aggregate successs over their first division rivals.

Tranmere made an ideal start by seizing the lead after six minutes when Bolton's defence failed to clear a long throw from the right by Dave Challinor and Henry lashed the ball home from the edge of the penalty box.

Mahon strengthened Tranmere's grip when he drove home a spot kick in the 21st minute after striker Scott Taylor was fouled by defender Mike Whitlow.

Tranmere, who are also enjoying a fine F.A. Cup run by reaching the fifth round, put the result of the tie beyond doubt after 70 minutes when striker David Kelly took advantage of a quickly-taken free kick to score the third goal.

Tranmere's opponents in the Wembley final on February 27 will be Premier League side Aston Villa or Leicester City, who drew their semifinal first leg 0-0.

PLATINI TRIBUTES ZIDANE

Former France and Juventus midfielder Michel Platini has paid tribute to his compatriot and current Juve star Zinedine Zidane, describing him is one of the last genuine playmakers in modern football.

Zidane's excellent club form in recent weeks culminated in an exquisite goal in his side's 2-0 win away to Reggina recently when he danced past three defenders before blasting a shot into the roof of the net.

After injury problems last season, the 1998 European and World Player of the Year finally looks back to the kind of form that earned him those honours and helped France to win the World Cup.

"Zidane is a player out of his time, something from the old days," Platini said in an interview published last week.

"He is a fine number 10 and there are no more of those because most of the modern coaches prefer collective organisation to using a classic playmaker. They have destroyed this role and lots of players who used to take inspiration from this role. The result is they get a poorer spectacle."

Platini believes Zidane could be the man to revive the dying species of the playmaker.

"People who love football have to be happy about the success of Zidane because his example gives credibility to the position of the number 10 and gives new life to a breed of players who are becoming extinct."

Zinedine Zidane: Genuine playmaker.

Michel Platini: Tributing his compatriot.

Le Tissier pledges future

Southampton's Matt Le Tissier, has pledged his future to the club and insists he has no qualms about remaining with the perennial Premier League strugglers.

Having failed to nail down a regular place in the starting lineup this season, rumours have been rife that the former England international was about to move.

The long-serving 31-year-old has been the linchpin of the club's continued survival in the top flight and though he has struggled this season he is adamant that he has no intention of leaving the club.

Matt Le Tissier: Loyal.

"I have always said that as long as Southampton are in the Premier League and I'm given a fair crack of the whip, I'm happy to stay," he said on the club's official web site.

After breaking back into the first team over Christmas, Le Tissier, who has spent his whole career with the Saints despite regular rumours of a move to bigger club, picked up a hamstring injury on December 28 and has not played since.

OWEN INJURED AGAIN

England striker Michael Owen added to Liverpool's attacking problems last week when he limped off with a recurrence of a hamstring strain in a 0-0 home draw with Middlesbrough.

Manager Gerard Houllier said Owen had made a "wise decision" in coming off and the 20-year-old would have medical tests to determine the extent of the problem.

The French manager said Owen, whose electrifying pace produced one of the best goals of the last World Cup against Argentina, had looked sharp and in good form until he went off after half an hour.

Owen had a five-month layoff last year and missed several Euro 2000 qualifiers because of his hamstring injury. He returned in the early weeks of this season.

Houllier's attacking options are already limited by the suspension of Titi Camara and the long-term absence of injured Robbie Fowler.

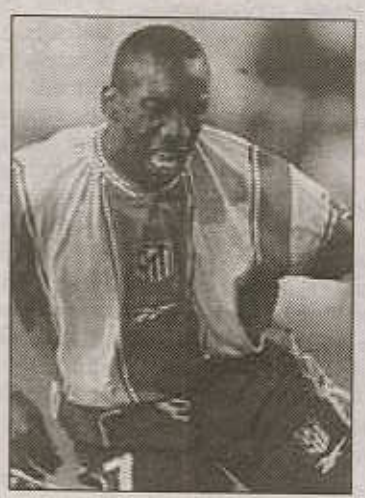
Michael Owen: Another layoff.

Hasselbaink to face trial

Free-scoring Atletico Madrid striker Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink could become the latest player in Spain to face trial by television following an off-the-ball incident in his side's 1-1 draw with Real Sociedad last weekend.

Hasselbaink, who has scored 18 league goals since his arrival from Leeds United over the summer, was caught on camera apparently planting an elbow into the midriff of young defender Zuhaitz Gurrutxaga, who was making his first division debut.

The two had been involved in a running battle during the game, which resulted in Gurrutxaga getting sent off for a second yellow card.



Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink: Trial by television.

Spain's Football Federation (RFEF) confirmed last week they had received a videotape of the game from Real Sociedad.

They will now decide whether to open an official investigation.

The RFEF have acted on two similar cases already this season — both of which have resulted in lengthy bans for the players involved.

Real Mallorca goalkeeper Mono Burgos was banned for 11 games after he was caught on video landing a punch on Espanyol striker Manuel Serrano, while Barcelona's Dutch forward Patrick Kluivert was suspended for five games following an incident with Rayo Vallecano's Jesus Cota.

GERMANS BID FOR INTERNET RIGHTS

Media firms have offered the German Football Federation (DFB) 50 million marks for Internet rights alone for broadcasting soccer matches from mid-2000 until 2003.

In summary four media firms were competing for the Internet-broadcast rights.

These include Kinowelt AG, television station tm3, tm3 partner Tele Muenchen GmbH, and marketing firm ISPR.

DFB aims to take a decision on the rights offering by mid-March.

THE BETTING

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Man United	$1.57
Arsenal	$4.50
Leeds	$4.50
Liverpool	$15.00
Chelsea	$51.00

EURO 2000 CHAMPIONSHIP

Holland	$5.00
Italy	$6.50
Spain	$7.00
France	$8.00
Germany	$9.00
England	$13.00
Czech Republic	$17.00
Sweden	$17.00
Yugoslavia	$26.00
Norway	$26.00
Portugal	$26.00
Romania	$26.00
Belgium	$26.00
Denmark	$51.00
Turkey	$67.00
Slovenia	$126.00

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Barcelona	$3.50
Lazio	$4.00
Man United	$5.50
Chelsea	$8.00
Real Madrid	$10.00
Bayern Munich	$12.00
Fiorentina	$15.00
Valencia	$21.00
Porto	$26.00
Bordeaux	$81.00
Rosenborg	$81.00
Feyenoord	$101.00
Hertha	$101.00
Marseille	$151.00
Dynamo Kiev	$151.00
Sparta Prague	$501.00

UEFA CUP

Juventus	$5.00
Parma	$7.50
Arsenal	$8.00
Roma	$8.00
Leeds	$12.00
Dep La Coruna	$15.00
Borussia Dortmund	$15.00
Monaco	$17.00
Celta Vigo	$17.00
Atletico Madrid	$21.00

FA CUP 2000

Chelsea	$4.00
Leeds	$5.00
Newcastle	$6.00
Everton	$8.00
Aston Villa	$11.00
Coventry	$11.00
Leicester	$15.00
Sheff Wednesday	$17.00
Fulham	$26.00
Blackburn	$31.00
Bolton	$51.00
Charlton	$51.00

WORLD

ROBERTO MANCINI RETIRES

Roberto Mancini: 36 caps for Italy.

A Tribute

Lazio's former Italy international Roberto Mancini said last week that he will retire as a player at the end of the current season to become a coach.

"In June I will finish playing and will move into coaching at Lazio or somewhere else," Mancini said. "I had to decide sooner or later and I do not want to start again with another team.

"I would very much like to start as (Lazio coach Sven Goran) Eriksson's assistant."

Mancini, 35, made his name at Sampdoria in the 1980s and early 1990s where he formed a brilliant forward partnership with Gianluca Vialli, now Chelsea manager.

The pair, dubbed 'the terrible twins', helped the Genoa club to a European Cup Winners' Cup triumph in 1990, the Italian championship a year later and the European Cup final in 1992.

In his heydays at Sampdoria.

Mancini, capped 36 times, joined Lazio in 1997 after 15 seasons with Sampdoria.

FACTFILE

1964: Born November 27, Jesi, Italy.
1978: Joined Bologna as a schoolboy.
1981: Serie A debut for Bologna, aged 16.
1982: Joins Sampdoria.
1984: Debut for Italy as a substitute in 2-0 friendly win against Canada
1990: Wins European Cup Winners' Cup with Sampdoria.
1991: Sampdoria win Serie A title. Mancini scores 12 goals in the season.
1992: In Sampdoria side who lose 1-0 after extra-time against Barcelona in European Cup final.
1994: Makes last of 36 appearances for Italy in friendly against Germany.
1997: Stuns Sampdoria fans when he leaves club after 15 seasons to join Lazio.
1999: Wins European Cup Winners' Cup with Lazio against Mallorca and follows up with European Super Cup win over Manchester United.
2000: Announces retirement at end of season to move into coaching.

Roberto Mancini: "I want to be a coach."

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YORKE PICKS UNITED

Manchester United striker Dwight Yorke said last week he would miss only one Manchester United league game while on international duty.

United were worried that Yorke's national side Trinidad and Tobago would demand the forward remain with the national squad after the CONCACAF Gold Cup to play in a series of World Cup qualifiers.

But Yorke insisted he would miss only the match at Newcastle on February 12 and would be back for the trip to Wimbledon on February 26.

"Things have been sorted out and it's not as bad as people have been saying it was. As far as I'm concerned I will only miss the Newcastle game.

"The World Cup qualifiers start in March, but they are games that Trinidad can certainly win without me, and I'm sure they understand.

Dwight Yorke: Loyalty tested.

"I've had many conversations over the phone with the Trinidad F.A. and they understand the position clearly. I will only go back if they really need me."

ASIAN GIANTS TO CLASH

Asian soccer giants Japan and China will clash in a friendly international in the Japanese city of Kobe on March 15, officials have announced in Tokyo.

Both teams are coached by Europeans who have made their mark in other parts of the world before moving to Asia.

Frenchman Philippe Troussier, who took over as Japan's national coach in September 1998, worked in Africa for 10 years, during which he led the national teams of Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso, Nigeria and South Africa, the latter at the France World Cup.

China, who sacked Englishman Bobby Houghton after their failure to qualify for the Sydney Olympics, recently hired much-travelled Serb Bora Milutinovic, who coached four different countries at the past four World Cups: Mexico in 1986, Costa Rica in 1990, the United States in 1994 and Nigeria in 1998.

It will be the first time Japan and China have met since the Dynasty Cup Far East championship in March 1998, when China triumphed 2-0 in Tokyo and would have won the four-nation tournament if Fan Zhiyi, later to play for Crystal Palace in the English league, had not missed a penalty.

The general secretary of the Japanese Football Association, Kenji Mori, said the fixture would help strengthen links between the three major powers in east Asia: South Korea, Japan and China.

"China have speed, height and technique — all the raw ingredients," said Mori.

"It will be interesting to see what a world-class coach like Milutinovic does with them."

Japan will compete in the four-nation Lunar New Year Cup in Hong Kong from February 5 to 8 before moving on to Macau for Asian Cup qualifiers against Singapore, Brunei and the former Portuguese enclave.

The China game will be Japan's first home international of the year as Troussier lays the foundations for the 2002 World Cup team.

CAMACHO LAYS DOWN THE LAW

Spanish national coach Jose Antonio Camacho responded in fighting fashion to last week's criticism from both Real Madrid and soccer's governing body FIFA.

Real Madrid and FIFA had criticised Camacho for selecting two Real Madrid players for the friendly international against Poland which Spain won convincingly 3-0.

Real Madrid had a rearranged league match against Real Betis on the same night, which they won 2-1, due to their participation in the recent World Club Championship.

But Camacho has strongly defended his right to select who he wants and even went so far as to threaten to resign earlier in the week.

"The selection is my unique responsibility and I'm never going to compromise," Camacho said.

Another conflict is expected later this month when Spain play Croatia in Split on February 23. Real Madrid have another rearranged league match against Valladolid the night before.

"If I want to choose 10 players from Real Madrid and 10 players from Valladolid then that's my right. What are they going to do then, postpone the match?" Camacho added.

Camacho played for Real for 16 seasons during the 1970s and 1980s. He was also briefly the coach of the seven-times European champions in the summer of

Jose Antonio Camacho: "It's my right."

1998 before leaving acrimoniously after just 22 days, saying that club president Lorenzo Sanz had gone back on his promises over an assistant's contract.

FIFA president Sepp Blatter entered the dispute this week when he said: "Clubs need a little more cooperation from their national federation. Real have just participated in the World Club Championship and shouldn't have their players taken for a friendly match."

However Spanish federation chief Angel Maria Villar, who is also a FIFA executive committee member, has firmly backed Camacho.

"I hope he stays on until 2002 and I'm optimistic he will," Villar said.

Villar also described Blatter's comments concerning Camacho as unfair.

The Spanish minister for education and culture Mariano Rajoy, who has overall responsibility for sports matters in the Spanish government, has also entered the fray.

"I hope logic prevails and we are working to reconcile the interest of the clubs and the national team," Rajoy said.

"However Camacho is clearly an excellent coach and has the overwhelming support of the supporters," he added.

Since Camacho took over in September 1998 Spain have notched up an impressive record of 11 wins, two draws and a solitary loss, to Argentina in a friendly international last November.

Camacho also guided Spain through their Euro 2000 qualifying campaign in stunning fashion and their results under him have seen Spain rise to fourth in the current FIFA world rankings.

SPANISH GOAL MACHINE GETS NATIONAL CALL UP

Salva Ballesta's scoring exploits at Racing Santander have earnt him a place in Spain's squad for the friendly against Poland which Spain won 3-0.

Salva, who has notched 21 goals in 20 club games this season, was one of five uncapped players called up by coach Jose Antonio Camacho.

"To defend the shirt of your country is the best reward a player can get," said Salva. "I'm really proud of this. It's an honour for me and the club."

The other new faces in Camacho's revamped squad were Real Zaragoza goalkeeper Juanmi Garcia, defenders Juan Velasco of Celta Vigo and Deportivo Coruna's Enrique Romero, and Rayo Vallecano forward Luis Cembranos.

Camacho included Real Madrid pair Fernando Hierro and Raul Gonzalez in the 19-man party, a move criticised by the club because they had a rescheduled league match against Real Betis on the same day.

Camacho shrugged off the comments and said he was only concerned with picking the best players available.

"It's not my problem," he said. "What interests me is the well being of the national team and that should be the main concern for everyone."

AFRICAN NATIONS CUP

GROUP A

1. Ghana	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
2. Cameroon	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
3. Ivory Coast	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
4. Togo	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Results so far: Ghana 1 Cameroon 1; Ivory Coast 1 Togo 1; Ghana 2 Togo 0.

Remaining fixtures: Cameroon v Ivory Coast; Ghana v Ivory Coast, Cameroon v Togo

GROUP B

1. South Africa	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
2. Algeria	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
3. D.R.Congo	2	0	1	1	0	1	1
4. Gabon	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Results so far: South Africa 3 Gabon 1; Algeria 0 Democratic Republic of Congo 0. South Africa 1 Democratic Republic of Congo 0.

Remaining fixtures: Gabon v Algeria; South Africa v Algeria, Gabon v Democratic Republic of Congo

GROUP C

1. Senegal	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
2. Egypt	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
3. Burkina Faso	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
4. Zambia	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Results so far: Egypt 2 Zambia 0; Burkina Faso 1 Senegal 3.

Remaining fixtures: Egypt v Senegal; Zambia v Burkina Faso; Egypt v Burkina Faso, Zambia v Senegal

GROUP D

1. Nigeria	1	1	0	0	4	2	3
2. Morocco	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
3. Congo	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
4. Tunisia	1	0	0	1	2	4	0

Results so far: Nigeria 4 Tunisia 2; Morocco 1 Congo 0.

Remaining fixtures: Nigeria v Congo; Tunisia v Morocco; Nigeria v Morocco, Tunisia v Congo

LEADING GOALSCORERS

3 - Shaun Bartlett (South Africa)

2 - Victor Ikpeba, Austin Okocha (Nigeria), Kwame Ayew (Ghana)

1 - Dumisa Ngobe (South Africa), Chiva Nzighou (Gabon), Adel Sellimi, Walid Azaiez (Tunisia), Marc-Vivien Foe (Cameroon), Otto Addo (Ghana), Yasser Radwan, Hossam Hassan (Egypt), Tchirresoa Guel (Ivory Coast), Lantame Ouadja (Togo), Ousmane Sanou (Burkina Faso), Henri Camara, Papa Sarr, Salif Keita (Senegal), Salaheddine Bassir (Morocco)

TV GUIDE

*** All times are Australian Eastern Standard Summer Time**

Tuesday February 1
English FA Cup Round 5 Game 4 (LIVE)
Fox Sports
6am - 9.30am

English FA Cup Round 5 Game 4 (Replay)
Fox Sports
4.30m - 6.30pm

Wednesday February 2
Argentine Football: Copa De Ora
San Lorenzo v Velez Sarsfield
Optus Vision (ESPN)
4pm - 6pm

English FA Cup Highlights
Fox Sports
7.30pm - 9pm

European Soccer Show
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
10pm - 11pm

Thursday February 3
Soccer Central
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
9pm - 10pm

English FA Cup Highlights
Fox Sports
12pm - 1.30pm

Spanish Soccer Teams TBA
Fox Sports
8.30pm - 10.30pm

Friday February 4
Spanish Soccer Teams TBA
Fox Sports 2
10am - 12pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

National Soccer League Auckland v Sydney United (LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
5.30pm - 7.30pm

National Soccer League Northern Spirit v Sth Melbourne (LIVE)
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
7.30pm - 9.30pm

National Soccer League Northern Spirit v Sth Melbourne
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
11pm - 1am

Argentine Football: Copa De Ora
Boca Juniors v Mar De Plata
Optus Vision (ESPN)
11pm - 1am

English FA Cup Round 5 Replay weekends games
Fox Sports 2
1am - 7am
(Saturday Morning)

Saturday February 5
French Premier League
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 13)
10am - 12pm

Soccer Scene
Fox Sports
12pm - 1pm

UEFA Champions League
SBS TV
3.30pm - 4.30pm

World Soccer
SBS TV
4.30pm - 5.30pm

English Premier League (Replay)
SBS TV
5.30pm - 6.30pm

English Premier League
Fox Sports 2
6pm - 6.30pm

English Premier League Teams TBA (LIVE)
Fox Sports
2am - 4am
(Sunday Morning)

Sunday February 6
Italian Serie A Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
6.25am - 8.30am

Italian Serie A Highlights
SBS TV
10.30am - 11.30am

On The Ball
SBS TV
11.30am - 12.30pm

English Premier League Teams TBA (Replay)
Fox Sports
4.30pm - 6.30pm

National Soccer League
SBS TV
5pm - 7pm

National Soccer League Marconi v Perth (LIVE)

Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
6pm - 8pm

English Premier League Wimbledon v Everton (LIVE)
Fox Sports
2am - 5.30am
(Monday Morning)

Monday February 7
Argentine Football: Copa De Ora
River Plate v St Lorenzo
Optus Vision (ESPN)
3pm - 5pm

Best of English Soccer
Optus Vision (C7 Sport 12)
5pm - 6pm

English Premier League Highlights
Fox Sports
5.30pm - 6.30pm

English Premier League Highlights
SBS TV
7.30pm - 8.30pm

Italian Serie A Teams TBA (LIVE)
Optus Vision (ESPN)
2am - 4am
(Tuesday Morning)

WORLD

Excludes Monday games

ENGLISH FA CUP FIFTH ROUND

(Roman numerals in parentheses denotes non-Premier league sides)

Aston Villa 3 Leeds United 2, Chelsea 2 Leicester City 1, Cambridge (II) 1 Bolton (I) 3, Coventry City 2 Charlton (I) 3, Everton 2 Preston (II) 0, Fulham (I) 1 Tranmere (I) 2, Gillingham (II) 3 Sheffield Wednesday 1.

Draw for the quarter-finals of the English FA Cup made on Sunday:

Chelsea or Leicester City v Gillingham
Everton v Aston Villa
Bolton Wanderers v Charlton Athletic
Tranmere Rovers v Blackburn Rovers or Newcastle United.

Matches to be played over weekend of February 19-20

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE

Manchester United 1 Middlesbrough 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. ManchesterUnited	**21**	**14**	**5**	**2**	**52**	**26**	**47**
2.LeedsUnited	22	15	2	5	37	25	47
3.Arsenal	23	13	5	5	42	23	44
4.Liverpool	23	12	5	6	34	20	41
5.Sunderland	23	11	5	7	37	31	38
6.Chelsea	23	10	7	6	31	22	37
7.Tottenham Hotspur	23	10	5	8	34	27	35
8.West Ham United	22	8	8	6	28	25	32
9.Aston Villa	23	8	7	8	22	23	31
10.Leicester City	23	9	4	10	32	34	31
11.Everton	23	7	9	7	37	34	30
12.Coventry City	22	7	8	7	30	24	29
13.Wimbledon	23	6	10	7	34	37	28
14.Middlesbrough	22	8	4	10	24	31	28
15.Newcastle United	23	7	6	10	39	39	27
16.Derby County	23	6	5	12	23	33	23
17.Southampton	22	6	5	11	26	37	23
18.Bradford City	23	5	6	12	19	35	21
19.Shef Wednesday	22	4	4	14	20	46	16
20.Watford	23	4	2	17	21	50	14

LEADING SCORERS

19 - Kevin Phillips (Sunderland)
14 - Alan Shearer (Newcastle United)
13 - Andy Cole (Manchester United)
12 - Michael Bridges (Leeds United)
11 - Dwight Yorke (Manchester United), Paolo Di Canio (West Ham United)
10 - Robbie Keane (Coventry City), Kevin Campbell (Everton)
9 - Dion Dublin (Aston Villa), Steffen Iversen (Tottenham Hotspur), Tony Cottee (Leicester City), Tore Andre Flo (Chelsea), Niall Quinn (Sunderland)
8 - John Hartson (Wimbledon), Davor Suker (Arsenal)
7 - Muzzy Izzet (Leicester City), Nwankwo Kanu (Arsenal), Marians Pahars (Southampton), Brian Deane (Middlesbrough), Michael Owen (Liverpool), Tim Sherwood (Tottenham Hotspur), Carl Cort (Wimbledon), Thierry Henry (Arsenal), Gary McAllister (Coventry City), Marcus Gayle (Wimbledon)
6 - Rory Delap (Derby County), Hamilton Ricard (Middlesbrough), Titi Camara (Liverpool), Francis Jeffers (Everton), Emile Heskey (Leicester City).

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

Cardiff 1 Luton 3, Blackpool 0 Brentford 1, Bournemouth 1 Scunthorpe 1, Bristol Rovers 3 Wrexham 1, Bury 0 Bristol City 0, Chesterfield 2 Millwall 0, Oldham 2 Oxford 0, Reading 2 Colchester 0, Stoke 2 Burnley 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bristol Rovers	**28**	**18**	**5**	**5**	**46**	**22**	**59**
2. Wigan	27	15	11	1	48	22	56
3. Preston	26	16	7	3	46	23	55
4. Millwall	29	14	9	6	43	31	51
5. Burnley	27	13	9	5	39	24	48
6. Stoke City	28	13	9	6	40	26	48
7. Notts County	28	12	7	9	39	30	43
8. Brentford	29	12	7	10	39	38	43
9. Gillingham	25	12	6	7	44	33	42
10. Luton	28	11	7	10	40	39	40
11. Oldham	28	10	7	11	31	32	37
12. Wycombe	28	9	9	10	35	36	36
13. Bournemouth	29	10	6	13	40	44	36
14. Bristol City	28	7	14	7	31	31	35
15. Colchester	29	9	7	13	38	55	34
16. Bury	26	7	11	8	38	35	32
17. Wrexham	27	6	10	11	26	40	28
18. Scunthorpe	27	7	7	13	27	43	28
19. Cardiff	28	5	10	13	27	40	25
20. Reading	27	5	10	12	31	46	25
21. Oxford	27	6	7	14	24	41	25
22. Blackpool	28	4	10	14	30	48	22
23. Chesterfield	27	4	9	14	17	31	21
24. Cambridge	26	4	8	14	32	41	20

SCOTTISH FA CUP

(Roman numerals in parentheses denote non-premier league sides, NL-non-league)

Dundee United 4 Airdrieonians (I) 1, Greenock Morton (I) 1 Brechin (III) 1, St Johnstone 0 Rangers 2, Albion (III) 1 Partick Thistle (II) 2, Arbroath (II) 0 Motherwell 1 (abandoned at half time), Celtic v Inverness C.Thistle (I) postponed, Clyde (II) 3 Raith (I) 1, Clydebank (I) 1 Stirling (II) 0, Dundee 0 Ayr (I) 0, Falkirk (I) 3 Peterhead (NL) 1, Hearts 3 Stenhousemuir (II) 2, Hibernian 4 Dunfermline (I) 1, Kilmarnock v Whitehill or Alloa postponed, Queen of South (II) 0 Livingston (I) 7, St Mirren (I) 1 Aberdeen 1, Stranraer 1 Berwick 2.

Second round replay

Alloa (II) 2 Whitehill Welfare (NL) 0 (winners away to Kilmarnock in third round),

SCOTTISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Clyde	**20**	**10**	**6**	**4**	**27**	**15**	**36**
2. Alloa	19	7	10	2	24	19	31
3. Stranraer	22	6	11	5	29	24	29
4. Arbroath	21	7	8	6	31	31	29
5. Stirling	21	8	4	9	41	37	28
6. Ross County	19	8	4	7	21	20	28
7. Partick	21	7	6	8	21	23	27
8. Stenhousemuir	20	7	4	9	25	27	25
9. Hamilton	22	6	7	9	23	28	25
10. Queen of the South	21	5	4	12	26	44	19

SCOTTISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Queen's Park	**22**	**11**	**6**	**5**	**33**	**25**	**39**
2. Forfar	20	9	8	3	38	21	35
3. East Fife	20	10	4	6	24	21	34
4. Berwick	20	9	6	5	30	17	33
5. Cowdenbeath	22	9	5	8	30	25	32
6. Dumbarton	21	9	4	8	33	32	31
7. East Stirling	20	7	4	9	17	23	25
8. Montrose	21	7	3	11	24	33	24
9. Brechin	20	5	3	12	23	34	18
10. Albion	20	3	5	12	19	40	14

ITALIAN SERIE A

Bologna 1 Parma 0, Fiorentina 1 Reggina 0, Inter Milan 2 AS Roma 1, Juventus 1 Cagliari 1, Lazio 3 Bari 1, Perugia 0 AC Milan 3, Venezia 2 Torino 2, Lecce 2 Verona 1, Piacenza 0 Udinese 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Juventus	**19**	**11**	**7**	**1**	**25**	**9**	**40**
2. Lazio	19	11	6	2	36	17	39
3 Inter Milan	19	11	2	6	36	17	35
4. AS Roma	19	10	5	4	37	21	35
5. AC Milan	19	9	8	2	39	24	35
6. Parma	19	9	5	5	30	21	32
7. Udinese	19	8	4	7	31	27	28
8. Lecce	19	7	6	6	21	27	27
9. Bari	19	7	5	7	23	24	26
10. Bologna	19	7	5	7	16	18	26
11. Fiorentina	19	6	7	6	19	21	25
12. Perugia	19	7	2	10	18	35	23
13. Torino	19	5	6	8	18	24	21
14. Reggina	19	3	8	8	18	28	17
15. Venezia	19	4	4	11	17	30	16
16. Verona	19	4	4	11	15	29	16
17. Cagliari	19	1	9	9	17	29	12
18. Piacenza	19	2	5	12	10	25	11

LEADING SCORERS

14 - Andriy Shevchenko (AC Milan)
12 - Hernan Crespo (Parma)
11 - Cristiano Lucarelli (Lecce)
10 - Gabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina), Vincenzo Montella (AS Roma), Roberto Muzzi (Udinese)
9 - Christian Vieri (Inter Milan), Filippo Inzaghi (Juventus), Marcelo Salas (Lazio), Oliver Bierhoff (Milan)
8 - Mohamed Kallon (Reggina), Marco Ferrante (Torino)
7 - Giuseppe Signori (Bologna), Marco Delvecchio, Francesco Totti (Roma), Filippo Maniero (Venezia)
6 - Patrick Mboma (Cagliari)
5 - Alvaro Recoba (Inter), Sebastian Veron (Lazio), Adailton (Verona)
4 - Yksel Osmanovski (Bari), Ronaldo, Ivan Zamorano (Inter), Alessandro Del Piero (Juventus), Sinisa Mihajlovic (Lazio), George Weah (Milan), Marco Di Vaio (Parma), Renato Olive (Perugia), Stefano Fiore, Andrea Sottil (Udinese)
3 - Daniel Andersson, Duccio Innocenti, Gionatha Spinesi (Bari), Kennet Andersson (Bologna), Daniele Berretta, Luis Oliveira (Cagliari), Darko Kovacevic, Zinedine Zidane (Juventus), Alen Boksic, Simone Inzaghi, Dejan Stankovic (Lazio), Alessandro Conticchio (Lecce), Zvonimir Boban (Milan), Alain Boghossian, Ariel Ortega (Parma), Nicola Amoruso, Alessandro Calori (Perugia), Arturo Di Napoli, David Dionig (Piacenza), Andrea Pirlo (Reggina), Martin Jorgensen, Paolo Poggi (Udinese), Maurizio Ganz, Fabian Valtolina (Venezia)

SPANISH PRIMERA LIGA

Alaves 0 Valencia 1, Real Betis 0 Malaga 0, Numancia 3 Real Mallorca 1, Racing Santander 3 Real Oviedo 1, Real Madrid 3 Athletic Bilbao 1, Real Socieadad 2 Rayo Vallecano 1, Valladolid 4 Deportivo Coruna 1, Real Zaragoza 2 Sevilla 1, Celta Vigo 0 Atletico Madrid 1, Espanyol 1 Barcelona 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Deportivo Coruna	**22**	**12**	**4**	**6**	**37**	**28**	**40**
2. Real Zaragoza	22	10	8	4	38	22	38
3. Barcelona	22	11	5	6	43	28	38
4. Celta Vigo	22	11	2	9	31	28	35
5. Real Madrid	21	8	9	4	36	32	33
6. Alaves	22	9	5	8	25	25	32
7. Athletic Bilbao	22	8	8	6	32	33	32
8. Numancia	22	8	7	7	31	34	31
9. Valencia	22	8	6	8	29	24	30
10. Rayo Vallecano	22	9	3	10	31	32	30
11. Real Mallorca	22	8	5	9	29	30	29
12. Malaga	22	7	7	8	33	32	28
13. Atletico Madrid	22	8	4	10	34	35	28
14. Espanyol	22	7	6	9	32	33	27
15. Valladolid	21	7	6	8	22	25	27
16. Real Betis	22	8	3	11	20	34	27
17. Racing Santander	22	6	8	8	35	33	26
18. Real Sociedad	22	5	10	7	24	27	25
19. Real Oviedo	22	6	6	10	23	37	24
20. Sevilla	22	3	8	11	23	36	17

LEADING SCORERS

21 - Salva Ballesta (Racing Santander)
18 - Savo Milosevic (Real Zaragoza), Jimmy Floyd Hasselbaink (Atletico Madrid)
15 - Catanha (Malaga)
12 - Raul Gonzalez (Real Madrid)
11 - Roy Makaay (Deportivo Coruna), Diego Tristan (Real Mallorca), Victor Fernandez (Valladolid),
9 - Rivaldo (Barcelona)
8 - Ruben Navarro (Numancia), Dani Garcia (Barcelona), Juan Carlos Gomez (Sevilla), Gaizka Mendieta (Valencia), Pauleta Resendes (Deportivo Coruna), Dely Valdes (Real Oviedo), Joseba Etxeberria (Athletic Bilbao), Fernando Morientes (Real Madrid)
7 - Miguel Angel Benitez (Espanyol), Djalminha (Deportivo Coruna), Luis Figo (Barcelona), Rodrigo Fabri (Valladolid), Juanele Castano (Real Zaragoza)
6 - Patrick Kluivert (Barcelona), Valery Karpin (Celta Vigo), Finidi George (Real Betis), Alfonso Perez (Real Betis), Bolo Perez (Rayo Vallecano), Mario Turdo (Celta Vigo), Julio Salinas (Alaves), Manuel Canabal (Rayo Vallecano), Vassilis Tsartas (Sevilla)

DUTCH CUP

(II denotes second division side)

Feyenoord 1 AZ Alkmaar 3, Utrecht 5 Go Ahead Eagles Deventer (II) 3, PSV Eindhoven 0 Vitesse Arnhem 2, Roda JC Kerkrade 1 Ajax Amsterdam 0, Helmond Sport (II) 1 Willem II Tilburg 2, NEC Nijmegen 1 Excelsior Rotterdam (II) 0, Dordrecht '90 (II) 1 RBC Roosendaal (II) 0, RKC Waalwijk 2 Eindhoven (II) 0.

Quarter final draw
(to be played Feb 26-29):

A) Willem II Tilburg v AZ Alkmaar
B) Utrecht v Roda JC Kerkrade
C) NEC Nijmegen v Dordrecht '90
D) RKC Waalwijk v Vitesse Arnhem

Semi finals (to be played April 12)

Winner game A v winner game C
Winner game D v winner game B

FRENCH LEAGUE CUP

Bastia 1 Montpellier 0, Monaco 2 Racing Strasbourg 3 after extra time, St-Etienne 1 Red Star (III) 3, Beauvais (III) 0 Sedan 1 after extra time, Chateauroux (II) 0 Paris St Germain 1, Gueugnon (II) 1 Toulouse (II) 0, Olympique Lyon 1 Girondins Bordeaux 0, Postponed: Nancy v Sochaux.

WORLD

BELGIAN FIRST DIVISION

Club Bruges 3 Eendracht Aalst 0, Lierse 2 Harelbeke 0, Mouscron 2 Westerlo 1, Charleroi 1 Ghent 2, Verbroedering Geel 3 Lokeren 0, Sint-Truiden 2 Germinal Beerschot 0, Lommel 3 Anderlecht 3, Beveren 2 Mechelen 1, Standard Liege 5 Genk 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Anderlecht	**20**	**14**	**5**	**1**	**52**	**22**	**47**
2. Club Bruges	20	13	2	5	50	20	41
3. Genk	21	11	6	4	46	29	39
4. Lierse	21	11	5	5	38	25	38
5. Standard Liege	21	12	2	7	46	35	38
6. Ghent	21	12	1	8	53	41	37
7. Germinal Beerschot	21	10	5	6	38	32	35
8. Excelsior Mouscron	21	10	4	7	43	32	34
9. Westerlo	21	8	6	7	41	44	30
10. Eendracht Aalst	21	8	2	11	39	43	26
11. Lokeren	21	7	5	9	37	44	26
12. Mechelen	21	8	2	11	33	50	26
13. Beveren	21	5	6	10	30	44	21
14. Harelbeke	21	5	4	12	38	44	19
15. Sint-Truiden	21	5	4	12	22	43	19
16. Charleroi	21	4	6	11	24	40	18
17. Verbroedering Geel	21	2	9	10	16	37	15
18. Lommel	21	1	10	10	21	42	13

LEADING SCORERS

20 - Ole Martin Aarst (Ghent)
19 - Toni Brogno (Westerlo)
14 - Jan Koller (Anderlecht), Marcin Zewlakow (Excelsior Mouscron)
12 - David Paas (Harelbeke)
10 - Tomasz Radzinski (Anderlecht), Gert Verheyen (Club Bruges), Par Zetterberg (Anderlecht), Sven Vermant (Club Bruges)
9 - Jochen Janssen (Club Bruges), Marc Degryse (Germinal Beerschot), Branko Strupar (Genk/Derby County), Eric Van Meir (Lierse)

PORTUGESE FIRST DIVISION

Gil Vicente 1 Belenenses 1, Estrela Amadora 1 Uniao Leiria 1, Santa Clara 0 Maritimo 0, Rio Ave 2 Braga 0, Alverca 1 Porto 1, Salgueiros 1 Benfica 2, Farense 2 Vitoria Guimaraes 1, Boavista 2 Campomaiorense 1, Vitoria Setubal v Sporting Lisbon.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Porto	**19**	**13**	**5**	**1**	**39**	**9**	**44**
2. Sporting Lisbon	18	12	4	2	32	15	40
3. Benfica	19	11	5	3	26	13	38
4. Vitoria Guimaraes	19	10	4	5	32	21	34
5. Boavista	19	10	3	6	21	15	33
6. Maritimo	19	8	6	5	22	15	30
7. Belenenses	19	6	9	4	22	16	27
8. Estrela Amadora	19	6	8	5	21	20	26
9. Gil Vicente	19	7	5	7	23	21	26
10. Alverca	19	7	3	9	22	27	24
11. Braga	19	6	3	10	22	27	21
12. Salgueiros	19	6	2	11	15	25	20
13. Rio Ave	19	5	5	9	21	29	20
14. Campomaiorense	19	5	4	10	17	27	19
15. Farense	19	3	8	8	14	34	17
16. Santa Clara	19	3	7	9	21	30	16
17. Uniao Leiria	19	3	7	9	16	24	16
18. Vitoria Setubal	18	3	4	11	13	32	13

GREEK FIRST DIVISION

OFI Heraklion 2 Aris Thessaloniki 1, PAOK Thessaloniki 2 Trikala 0, Xanthi 2 Ionikos Piraeus 1, Panthinaikos 3 Kavala 0, Panachaiki Patras 0 Olympiakos Piraeus 2, Ethnikos Astir Athens 3 Apollon Athens 1, Proodeftiki Piraeus 1 Paniliakos Pyrgos 1, Iraklis Thessaloniki 1 Panionios Athens 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Olympiakos	**17**	**15**	**0**	**2**	**48**	**14**	**45**
2. Panathinaikos	17	14	2	1	45	12	44
3. OFI Heraklion	17	12	3	2	31	18	39
4. Iraklis	17	9	2	6	31	25	29
5. Panionios	17	9	1	7	30	33	28
6. AEK Athens	16	8	3	5	31	21	27
7. PAOK Salonika	17	7	6	4	29	21	27
8. Aris Salonika	17	7	5	5	24	19	26
9. Paniliakos Pyrgos	17	6	4	7	21	19	22
10. Xanthi	17	5	6	6	18	21	21
11. Ethnikos Astir	17	6	2	9	16	24	20
12. Ionikos Piraeus	17	3	8	6	16	23	17
13. Panachaiki Patras	17	4	4	9	16	25	16
14. Kalamata	16	3	4	9	15	34	13
15. Proodeftiki	17	3	4	10	10	23	13
16. Kavala	17	3	4	10	16	31	13
17. Trikala	17	3	3	11	12	32	12
18. Apollon Athens	17	2	5	10	12	26	11

ISRAELIFIRST DIVISION

Maccabi Haifa 1 Maccabi Netanya 1, Hapoel Tel Aviv 4 Ashdod SC 2, Hapoel Petah Tikva 0 Hapoel Haifa 2, Ironi Rishon Lezion 1 Betar Jerusalem 4, Hapoel Kfar Sava 0 Maccabi Herzliya 0, Hapoel Jerusalem v Maccabi Petah Tikva postponed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Hapoel Tel Aviv	**22**	**17**	**3**	**2**	**53**	**14**	**54**
2. Maccabi Haifa	22	16	5	1	54	17	53
3. Hapoel Petah Tikva	22	14	2	6	37	24	44
4. Hapoel Haifa	22	11	8	3	38	19	41
5. Betar Jerusalem	22	11	7	4	40	30	40
6. Maccabi Tikva	21	10	3	8	28	28	33
7. Ashdod SC	22	7	7	8	30	30	28
8. Maccabi Tel Aviv	21	7	4	10	26	22	21
9. Hapoel Kfar Sava	22	5	5	12	23	38	20
10. Ironi Lezion	22	4	8	10	20	41	20
11. Bnei Yehuda	21	4	6	11	18	37	18
12. Maccabi Netanya	22	4	5	13	27	45	17
13. Hapoel Jerusalem	21	4	2	15	17	39	14
14. Maccabi Herzliya	22	3	5	14	20	47	14

Note: Maccabi Tel Aviv deducted four points for doping violations.

IRISH FIRST DIVISION

Finn Harps 1 Cork City 1, Sligo Rovers 0 University College Dublin 1, Drogheda United v Shamrock Rovers postponed, St Patrick's Athletic 1 Derry City 1, Shelbourne 1 Galway United 1, Waterford United 0 Bohemians 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Shelbourne	**23**	**13**	**9**	**1**	**28**	**11**	**48**
2. Bohemians	22	13	5	5	29	16	44
3. Cork City	23	11	6	6	36	19	39
4. Shamrock Rovers	22	11	4	7	36	25	37
5. St Patrick's Athletic	23	10	7	6	32	23	37
6. University Dublin	23	9	8	6	24	18	35
7. Derry City	23	9	5	9	21	27	32
8. Galway United	23	6	5	12	24	36	23
9. Finn Harps	23	5	7	11	24	29	22
10. Waterford United	23	4	8	11	16	29	20
11. Sligo Rovers	23	5	5	13	24	42	20
12. Drogheda United	22	3	7	12	16	35	16

NORTHERN IRELAND FIRST DIVISION

liftonville 3 Ballymena United 2, Glenavon 3 Newry 0, Glentoran 2 Coleraine 0, Linfield 2 Portadown 1, Lisburn 0 Crusaders 1.

LEAGUE OF WALES

Aberystwyth Town 2 Bangor City 1, Barry Town 2 Rhayader Town 0, Caernarfon Town 0 Afan Lido 3, Connah's Quay 2 Haverfordwest 2, Conwy United v Caersws postponed, lanelli 1 Cwmbran Town 3, Rhyl 2 Newtown 3, TNS Llansantffraid 0 Flexys Cefyn Druids 3, Inter Cardiff 0 Carmarthen Town 4, Bangor City 8 Conwy United 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Barry Town	**22**	**14**	**4**	**4**	**64**	**23**	**46**
2. Carmarthen Town	21	13	3	5	41	25	42
3. Llanelli	20	13	2	5	51	27	41
4. Cwmbran Town	20	12	5	3	38	19	41
5. TNS Llansantffraid	20	12	2	6	38	30	38
6. Bangor City	22	12	1	9	45	37	37
7. Aberystwyth Town	18	10	3	5	40	29	33
8. Connah's Quay	21	9	5	7	40	26	32
9. Newtown	21	8	5	8	26	21	29
10. Flexys Druids	22	9	0	13	27	39	27
11. Caersws	20	6	6	8	28	28	24
12. Afan Lido	18	6	5	7	21	23	23
13. Haverfordwest	20	4	7	9	26	42	19
14. Rhyl	19	5	3	11	19	44	18
15. Inter Cardiff	18	4	5	9	15	28	17
16. Conwy United	15	4	2	9	23	48	14
17. Rhayader Town	21	2	6	13	13	36	12
18. Caernarfon Town	20	1	6	13	13	43	9

MOROCCAN FIRST DIVISION

Raja Casablanca 4 Settat 1, Sporting Sale 1 Jeunesse Massira 1, Khouribga 0 Widad Casablanca 2, Agadir 1 Ittihad Casablanca 0, FUS Rabat 2 Marrakesh 1, Mohammedia 0 Royal Armed Forces 0, Moghreb Fes 2 Meknes 1, Beni Mellal 1 Widad Fes 0.

SOUTH AMERICAN OLYMPIC QUALIFIERS

Brazil 9 Colombia 0, Venezuela 4 Ecuador 2

Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	**4**	**3**	**1**	**0**	**15**	**1**	**10**
Chile	4	2	1	1	7	7	7
Colombia	4	2	1	1	10	13	7
Venezuela	4	1	1	2	5	9	4
Ecuador	4	0	0	4	5	12	0

Group B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	**4**	**4**	**0**	**0**	**7**	**2**	**12**
Argentina	4	2	1	1	7	4	7
Peru	4	2	1	1	10	8	7
Paraguay	4	1	0	3	7	9	3
Bolivia	4	0	0	4	4	12	0

Teams to qualify for the final group phase.

BRAZIL
CHILE
URUGUAY
ARGENTINA

The top two nations will qualify for Sydney 2000 Olympic games

FINAL PHASE:

Uruguay v Chile (Feb 2)
Brazil v Argentina (Feb 2)
Uruguay v Argentina (Feb 4)
Chile v Brazil (Feb 4)
Chile v Argentina (Feb 6)
Brazil v Uruguay (Feb 6)

NATIONAL LEAGUE

	Total							Home						Away					
	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	P	W	D	L	F	A	P	W	D	L	F	A
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	19	11	3	5	33	18	**36**	8	4	3	1	17	7	11	7	0	4	16	11
WOLLONGONG WOLVES	19	10	5	4	39	28	**35**	9	7	0	2	19	12	10	3	5	2	20	16
PERTH GLORY	18	9	5	4	33	23	**32**	9	6	2	1	21	10	9	3	3	3	12	13
BRISBANE STRIKERS	19	9	4	6	29	19	**31**	10	5	3	2	21	10	9	4	1	4	8	9
MARCONI STALLIONS	18	9	3	6	26	23	**30**	8	5	0	3	11	10	10	4	3	3	15	13
CARLTON SC	18	8	5	5	32	21	**29**	10	5	3	2	16	9	8	3	2	3	16	12
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS	18	8	5	5	23	23	**29**	9	5	3	1	16	12	9	3	2	4	7	11
PARRAMATTA POWER	17	7	3	7	33	29	**24**	10	4	3	3	19	14	7	3	0	4	14	15
SOUTH MELBOURNE	17	7	3	7	26	27	**24**	9	6	2	1	20	7	8	1	1	6	6	20
AUCKLAND KINGZ	17	6	5	6	31	31	**23**	8	3	3	2	17	16	9	3	2	4	14	15
NORTHERN SPIRIT	19	7	2	10	22	29	**23**	9	4	1	4	11	13	10	3	1	6	11	16
ADELAIDE CITY FORCE	19	5	7	7	20	21	**22**	10	4	4	2	14	10	9	1	3	5	6	11
GIPPSLAND FALCONS	19	5	6	8	13	23	**21**	9	3	2	4	7	9	10	2	4	4	6	14
CANBERRA COSMOS	19	4	5	10	23	34	**17**	10	2	3	5	12	13	9	2	2	5	11	21
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS	19	4	5	10	18	35	**17**	9	3	2	4	8	9	10	1	3	6	10	26
SYDNEY UNITED	19	3	4	12	13	30	**13**	11	3	2	6	10	16	8	0	2	6	3	14

CANBERRA COSMOS 1
(Gonzalez 45+)
GIPPSLAND FALCONS 1
(MacNicol 45)
Venue: Bruce Stadium **Crowd:** 1847 **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: Winnie 86 (CC)
Teams: Canberra Cosmos: Konstantinou, Burt, Polak (Purdue 84), Winnie, Arranz, Hamilton, James (Howarth 72), Hooker, Roberts, De Jesus, Gonzalez (Prenzoski 72)
Gippsland Falcons: Jevdjevic, Fak, Gotis, Durakovic, MacNicol, Puca, Robertson (Savage 79), Hutchinson, Kako (Katz 83), Marcina, Nilo.

CARLTON SC 0
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1
(Cardozo 73)
Venue: Olympic Park **Crowd:** 2334 **Referee:** S. Micallef
Cautions: Mendez (SO) 18, Phillips (SO) 58.
Teams: Carlton SC: Carlton: Anastasiadis (D), McPherson, Marth, Slater, Atkinson, Moreira (Martin 80), Lapsansky, Thompson, Terminello (Anthopoulos 76), Azzopardi, Kennedy (Conroy 76).
Sydney Olympic: Bouhoutsos, Thomas, Zoricich, Baillie, Juric, Arambasic (Tome 46), Phillips, Cardozo, Sinozic, Mendez, Wilson (Kalantzis 80).

PARRAMATTA POWER 4
(Griffiths 10 & 16, Santalab 50, Sterjovski 54)
NORTHERN SPIRIT 3
(Seal 12 & 52, Langdon 26)
Venue: Parramatta Stadium **Crowd:** 8120 **Referee:** M. Shields
Cautions: Cunico (NS) 57, Berry (PP) 67.
Teams: Parramatta Power: M. Gibson, Bennet, Vrkic, Plesa, Byrnes, Santalab (J.Gibson 66), Berry, Ardone, Laybutt (Eagelton 72), Sterjovski, Griffiths (Angelucci 76).
Northern Spirit: Perosh, Casserly, Sobczyk, Bingley, Bilokapic, Slater, Cunico (Saad 65), T. Cranney (Rudan 79), Langdon (A. Griffiths 46), Seal, Perenich.

BRISBANE STRIKERS 3
(McLaren 2, Baldwin 28, Hews 48)
AUCKLAND KINGZ 1
(Riddle 63)
Venue: Suncorp Metway Stadium **Crowd:** 2,562 **Referee:** B. Hugo
Cautions: Jones (AK) 52, Middleby (AK) 61, Jackson (AK) 69, Meredith (BS) 84, Van Steeden (AK) 89
Teams: Brisbane Strikers: Bolton, Gwynne, Ditton (Bell 68m), Hews, Dwyer (Pilic 72m), McLaren, North Battistin, Grierson, Meredith (Srhoj 85m), Baldwin.
Auckland Kingz: Utting, Bunce, Jackson, Middleby, Ngata, Osman, Vicelich, Silva,Elrick (Van Steeden 45), Perry (Riddle 45), Jones.

SYDNEY UNITED 1
(Usljebrka 2)
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1
(Cervinski 89)
Venue: Sydney United Sports Centre **Crowd:** 3098 **Referee:** E. Lennie
Cautions: Jerman 23 (SU), Palapanis 53 (SU), Rastell 57 (SU), Kelic 87 (MK) Hughes 89 (SU)
Teams: Sydney United: Hughes, Bosnar, Palapanis, Maric, Genc, Arrarte, Rastell, Moric, Pondeljak (Younis 84), Jerman (Bosevski 68), Usljebrka (Jurilj 66)
Melbourne Knights: John, Rayker (Reda 67), Kovacevic, Vukadin, Silic, Urlovic (Kelic 66), Murtala (Rados 80), Kiratzoglou, Susa, Cervinski, Vargas.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 2
(Lozanovski 64, Curcija 94+)
NEWCASTLE BREAKERS 0
Venue: Bob Jane Stadium **Crowd:** 7458 **Referee:** D. Dwight.
Cautions: Lozanovski (SM) 38, Vlahos 57, Wilson (NB) 65, McManus (NB) 89.
Teams: South Melbourne: South Melbourne: Jones, Iosifidis, Blatsis, Panopoulos (Alagich 63), Trimboli, Curcija, Anastasiadis (Coveny 63), Lozanovski, Goutzoulis, Liparoti, Vlahos (Tsekinis 79).
Newcastle Breakers: Newcastle Breakers: Catlin, Pryce, Roberts, McManus, Sprod, Wilson, Buonavoglia, Wieczorek (Tancheski 77), Trpcevski (Dodd 63), Harper, Moore.

PERTH GLORY 2
(Buljan 34, Edwards 63)
WOLLONGONG WOLVES 1
(Chipperfield 86)
Venue: Perth Oval **Crowd:** 9657 **Referee:** G. Connolly.
Cautions: Harnwell 44 (PG) Masi 44 (WW)
Red Card: Masi 51 (WW)
Teams: Perth Glory: Petkovic, Trajkovski, Miller, Naven, Harnwell, Valle, Junior, Afkos, Edwards, Buljan, Carbone (Faria 78)
Wollongong Wolves: Pogliaconi, Souris (Lahanas 78), Ceccoli, Stanton, Cervinski, Horsley, Surjan (Harlock 78), Young, Chipperfield, Spencer (Huxley 65) Masi.

ADELAIDE CITY FORCE 2
(Pelosi 15, Sabljak 20)
MARCONI STALLIONS 2
(Care 5, Babic 85)
Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium **Crowd:** 4828 **Referee:** M. Breeze.
Cautions: D. Longo (MS) 37, S. Babic (MS) 38, A. Vidmar (AC) 91.
Teams: Adelaide City Force: Knezevic, Hornjik, Tobin, Mori, Veart, Sabljak, Vidmar, Kemp, Costanzo, Hassell, Pelosi (Brain 87).
Marconi Stallions: Turnbull, Gibson, M. Babic, Longo, Care, S. Babic, Maloney, Smith, (Renaud 59), Invincible (Trajanovski 74), Farah, Zoric (Duric 46).

LEADING GOALSCORERS

P Foster	(Brisbane Strikers)	11
P Cardozo	(Sydney Olympic)	10
M Curcija	(Sth Melbourne)	10
A Moreira	(Carlton SC)	10
C Boutsianis	(Perth Glory)	9
E Masi	(Wollongong Wolves)	9
S Petrovski	(Wollongong Wolves)	9
A Marth	(Carlton SC)	8
J Buonavoglia	(Newcastle Breakers)	7
D Mori	(Adelaide City Force)	7

ABSW PLAYER OF THE YEAR
(PROGRESSIVE POINTS)
TURN TO PAGE 14

ROUND FIFTEEN
Wednesday 2 February: Newcastle Breakers v South Melbourne Breakers Stadium 7.30pm.

ROUND TWENTY
Friday 4 February: Adelaide City Force v Brisbane Strikers Hindmarsh Stadium 8pm. **Northern Spirit v South Melbourne North Sydney Oval 7.30pm**, Kingz FC v Sydney United North Harbour Stadium 7.30pm. **Saturday 5 February Gippsland Falcons v Carlton Falcons Stadium 7pm, Sunday 6 February** Sydney Olympic v Canberra Cosmos Belmore Sports Ground 6.30pm. **Wollongong Wolves v Newcastle Breakers Brandon Park 6.30pm,** Marconi v Perth Glory Marconi Stadium 6pm. **Melbourne Knights v Parramatta Power Knights 6pm.**

(All times provided are local times)